

Wednesday
DECEMBER 16, 2009

redeyechicago.com

A Chicago Tribune
publication

★ **FREE** ★

REDEYE ILLUSTRATION

MILITARY TRIALS AT ILL. PRISON

page 3

Patrick Kane's
star-studded
birthday **19**

Kudos, catcalls
for Golden
Globes noms **38**

Guy movies
go feminine—
RedEye-style **50**



thanks for
nothing

Feeling like Scrooge this year? You're not alone.
Holiday budgets are shrinking **pages 6-7**



WHO YOU VIBIN'?

It's Wednesday, peeps! Another installment of RedEye's "Who You Vibin'?" online dating contest has come to a close, and the winner is ... **Christopher Kusek!** We put Kusek's dater profile along with two other single guys on RedEye's blog and asked readers to vote on whom they're vibin' the most. If you're interested in getting in touch with Kusek, hit up the e-mail listed below. Whether he responds is up to him, of course. Sign up for the fun—and check out the new bachelorettes featured this week—at redeyechicago.com/vibin.

What do you do? I'm a Technology Evangelist. My focus is around enterprise, high tech, innovation, complex subjects, social media, education, outreach, mentorship, community and evangelism.

Seeking? Someone who is passionate about something! A whole individual by themselves not looking to be "completed" but to be "complimented." Comfortable in themselves to know that there are no limits, only the

ones we set for ourselves—out of safety and not out of fear. And, most importantly, someone who is positive and sees the good in not only other people, but themselves for the betterment of society and relationships as a whole!

The song that best describes my dating life: Definitely ... Definitely want to have a mash-up of the "Thong Song" and "I Could Have Danced All Night" from "My Fair Lady" at my wedding! I need something I can shake

my moneymaker to!

The best under-the-radar Chicago spot: It'd have to be any of our finest vegan eating establishments in Chicago.



WANT TO BE IN REDEYE? Submit your dater profile to redeyechicago.com. Straight, gay or whatever, RedEye wants to hook you up.

Name: Christopher Kusek **Age:** 32 **City:** Chicago **E-mail:** christopher.kusek@pkguild.com

2do

To color

New clients get 20 percent off color service through the end of the year from Daniel Rubin, a Vidal Sassoon-trained colorist, at Jonathan Breitung Salon & Luxury Spa (3226 N. Lincoln Ave.). Call 773-348-1800 for an appointment.

To relax

Gentlemen, get a gingerbread massage, pine shave or peppermint mani/pedi for \$40 through the end of the year at Halo [For Men] (21 W. Elm St.). Call 312-642-4256 for an appointment.

To cook

Bruce Sherman of North Pond restaurant conducts a free chef demonstration from 10:30-11 a.m. Wednesday in the Green City Market tent at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum (2430 N. Cannon Drive).



19 15

TODAY'S FORECAST

The sunshine is deceiving



THU. 30 25

Yes, a warm-up



FRI. 30 20

Clouds are back



SAT. 26 19

Some sun



SUN. 23 14

At least no snow?

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PRISON TO HOLD MILITARY TRIALS

ILL. SITE WILL HOUSE TERROR SUSPECTS

Chicago Tribune

The White House is planning to hold military commission trials at the Thomson Correctional Center, the site of a planned detention center for terror suspects, a senior administration official said Tuesday afternoon.

The news comes on the heels of Tuesday morning's announcement that the federal Bureau of Prisons plans to buy the under-used state prison in northwest Illinois and convert it into a super-maximum security facility over the coming months.

Speaking on background, the official said the administration also is planning to hold tribunals, also known as military commission trials, at the prison. The president proposes to house as many as 100 detainees from the U.S. military detention center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, at the Thomson facility, which is about 150 miles from Chicago,

"The plan would be to hold the military commission trials at the facility," the official told reporters Tuesday afternoon.

The decision to buy the prison is part of a complicated plan for shutting down the controversial Guantanamo detention center, a lightning rod for anti-American sentiment around the world as a result of detainee abuses there during George W. Bush's administration.

Obama ordered the shutdown of the detention center as one of his first acts after taking office in January.

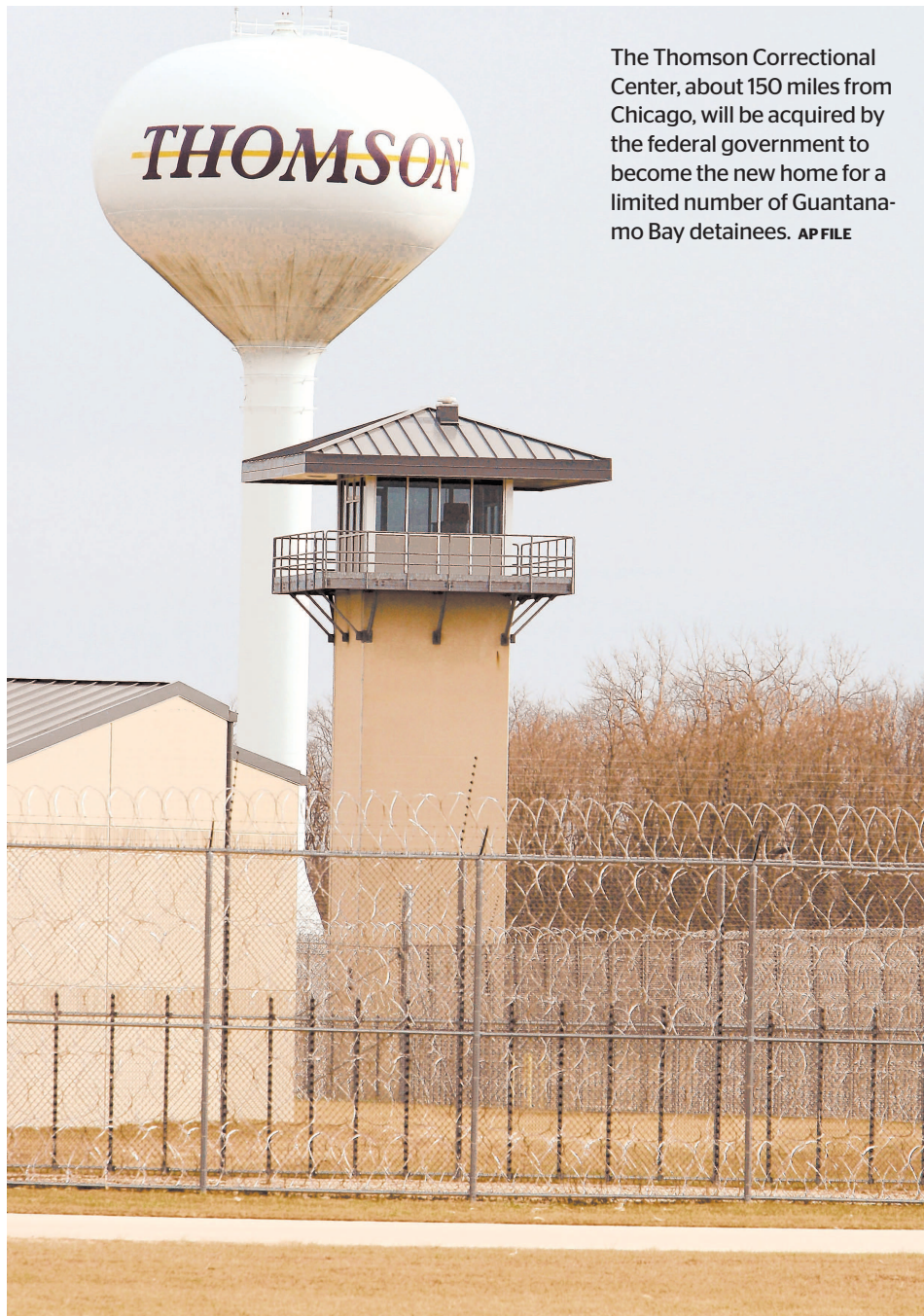
But actually closing it has proven a cumbersome matter, largely because of the difficulty of finding other places to put the suspected terrorists.

Illinois and local officials suggested the near-vacant Thomson prison, which began construction in the 1990s and was completed in 2001.

Under a plan officials will unveil in the coming days, the administration plans to send some of the detainees to their home countries and others to third countries, some of which operate rehabilitation programs for suspected terrorists.

The Thomson prison could house between 35 and 90 of the Guantanamo detainees, said one source familiar with the discussions.

Toward that end, Obama has directed that the federal government proceed with the



The Thomson Correctional Center, about 150 miles from Chicago, will be acquired by the federal government to become the new home for a limited number of Guantanamo Bay detainees. **AP FILE**

acquisition of the Thomson prison center, an administration official said late Monday. The official said the prison would be used to house federal inmates as well as "a limited number of detainees" from Guantanamo Bay.

"Closing the detention center at Guantanamo is essential to protecting our national security and helping our troops by removing a deadly recruiting tool from the hands of al-Qaida,"

the administration official said.

The announcement "is an important step forward as we work to achieve our national security objectives," the official said.

U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin and Illinois Gov. Quinn were scheduled to be in Washington on Tuesday to be briefed by administration officials. Both Democrats, Durbin and Quinn have been major promoters of the project.

Quinn says Thomson prison plan not rushed

Chicago Tribune

WASHINGTON Gov. Quinn met Tuesday with White House officials on the plan to ship suspected terrorists to a state prison in Thomson, Ill., and later sought to brush back criticism from political rivals that he was acting too hastily in signing on.



Quinn

Quinn, appearing with U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin, was asked by reporters why he had agreed to move forward even before a public hearing in the state is held Dec. 22.

The governor has come under quick criticism from two political opponents.

One is GOP gubernatorial hopeful Jim Ryan, a former state attorney general, who has suggested delaying a Thomson decision until a series of hearings beginning after Jan. 1.

Meantime, Quinn has been hit by a Democratic candidate for governor, comptroller Dan Hynes.

"This has been thoroughly discussed since it was first announced, and there'll be plenty of time for everybody to ask questions next week," the governor said.

Quinn maintained the process had been "deliberative," and added: "At the same time, we have to move forward. We can't just run in place."

None of the officials could predict when terror suspects might set foot in Illinois.

There are approvals needed from Congress, appraisals preceding the announced sale and major security enhancements that will happen before Thomson becomes what Durbin termed "the safest prison in America."

THE DIGIT

\$140 million

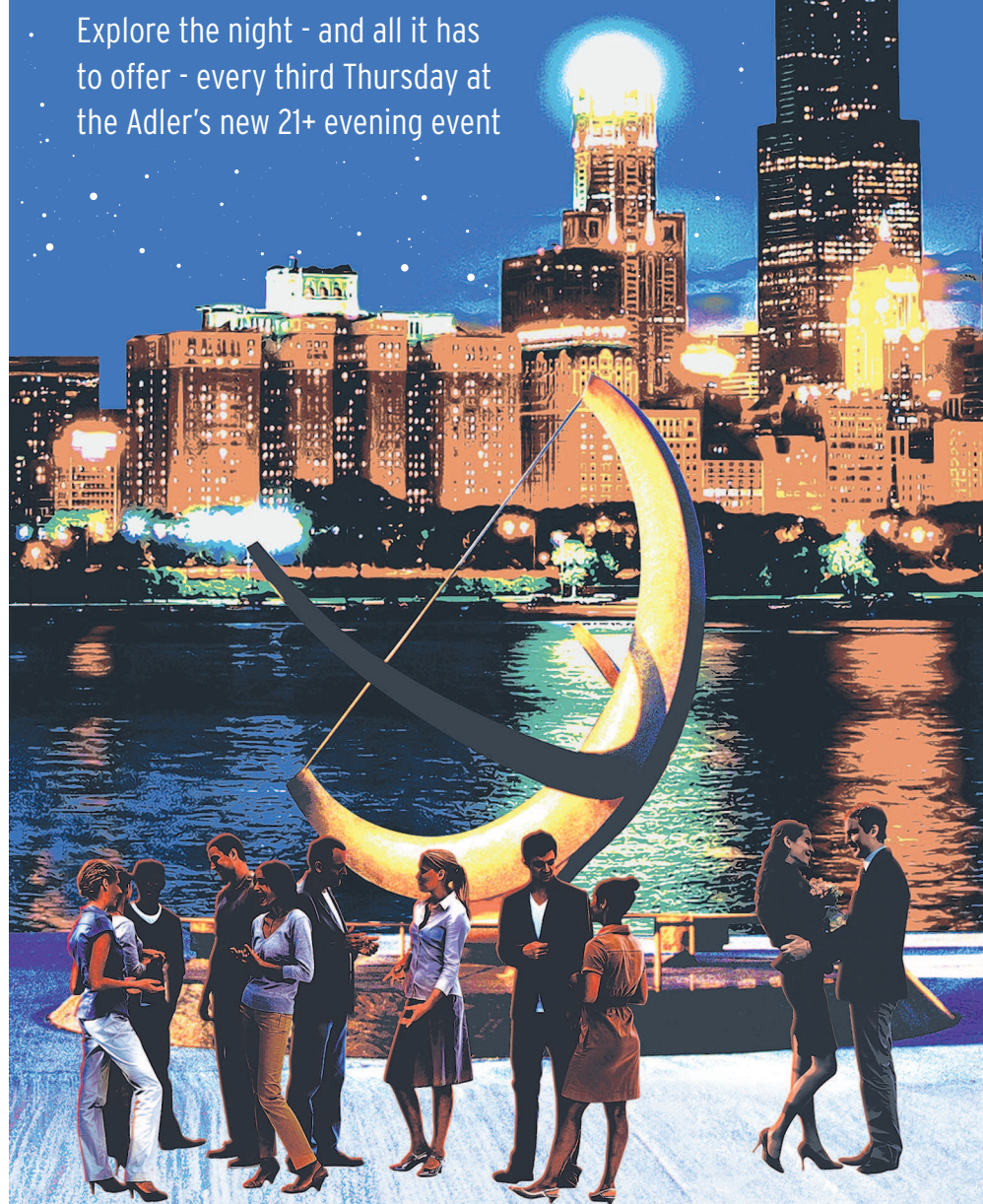
The \$140-million Thomson prison was completed nine years ago, but the maximum security wings have remained vacant. Between 150 and 200 prisoners now occupy the minimum security area.

Adler after Dark

"BIG BANG"
DECEMBER 17, 2009

Interesting things happen after dark...

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And the Person of the Year is ...

Time magazine will name its Person of the Year on Wednesday—can you feel the tension? We wanted to know who our readers think deserves the recognition, so we fired up the ol' RedEye blog.

Here are the results of our reader poll through Tuesday evening, plus more chatter from our blogs about Facebook photo tagging and pop culture classes.

Iran protesters	34%
Barack Obama	32%
Steve Jobs	7%
Somali pirates	5%
Stanley McChrystal	5%
Ben Bernanke	4%
Usain Bolt	4%
Timothy Geithner	2%
Olympia Snowe	2%
Angela Merkel	1%



325 VOTES; NUMBERS DON'T ADD UP TO 100% BECAUSE OF ROUNDING

Fear the photo tag

Put the camera away and enjoy your night ("Facebook friends: please untag me," Off the Markley, Dec. 9). Trying to document every screaming face can turn a fun night at a cozy bar into an unwelcome red-carpet experience. Drinking makes us feel (and seem) more attractive, but nothing brings me crashing back to reality harder than clicking on that "photo of you" link only to find that my "8th tequila shot" face has been preserved for the ages. Bars are poorly lit for a reason.

—ABRAHAM ON REDEYECHICAGO.COM/OFFTHEMARKLEY

Everybody dance!

I'd request that Fox offer a "Glee sociology" course to not only learn the songs in harmony and rhythm, but how to get away with breaking out a tune in the most unorthodox places, like my cube at work ("Ripped from the paper: Get schooled in pop culture," Kyles Files, Dec. 11). Sometimes, I just wanna belt out some "Bohemian Rhapsody" or "The Way You Move" and have my co-worker do some choreographed dance number! Hahaha! Then, when it's over, we sit down and get back to work.

—SILKYSOUL ON REDEYECHICAGO.COM/KYLEFILES



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The season of not giving

As Chicagoans rein in their budgets this year, holiday spending has turned into holiday stopping

By Kyra Kyles

REDEYE

Nicole Jordan isn't sorry she missed out on Black Friday sales.

She didn't snag any Cyber Monday deals either.

Yes, the Pullman resident is well aware that the holidays are around the corner, but she's not buying anything for anyone this year.

"I got real clear with my budget, and though every year I say I'm going to stop, this time, I mean it," Jordan, 35, said of her plan to switch up her shopping habit, which typically meant spending about \$500 to \$800 on close friends and family. To make sure she makes good on her goals, Jordan said immediately deletes or trashes coupons and sales alerts from her inbox and mailbox. "I'm going cold turkey," she said.

Holiday shopping?

Bah!

Try holiday stopping.

Retailers may already be hurting from a season more sluggish than anticipated, despite the November sales-a-paloozas. According to industry tracker Thomson Reuters, whose analysis did not include Wal-Mart, retailers received only a 0.5 percent bump in Black Friday sales this year, despite Wall Street expectations of a 2.1 percent increase. Indeed, 'tis the season to say "no" to spending, some Chicagoans told RedEye.

And it's part of a national trend.

A study from Chicago-based NPD revealed that 27 percent of respondents planned to shorten their giving lists, removing friends, some relatives and co-workers from their shopping rosters.

Kelly Eckberg certainly shortened her list this year.

Eckberg, a South Loop resident whose parents both were laid off in the fall, is focusing on small gifts for her family members.

Eckberg, 21, spent \$400 on her group of friends last year, including a \$250 Tiffany bracelet for a friend whose birthday fell around the holidays. Not this time around, Eckberg told RedEye, adding that she is still paying off that bracelet.

"My friends may still be doing extravagant things for each other, but not me," the Columbia College Chicago senior said. "It's not in my budget and my gift budget for my family is more

important."

West Pilsen's Shawn Gilbert used to spend about \$500 on clothing and toys for her now 2-year-old daughter. But this year, Gilbert plans to dole out only \$100 to \$150 for three practical gifts.

"At some point over the last three months, I realized our budget had to be tweaked and I needed to be more conservative," Gilbert, 33, said. "We don't need to be excessive about Christmas."

Other locals are budget-busting via alternative gifts.

Tanya Ward of Woodlawn said she and her friends will focus on making gifts or doing favors for one another.

"One of my friends went behind my back and is making a scrapbook for me with photos of my family," Ward, 38, said. "That means more to me than a Wii or whatever else you can buy. I still can't wait to see what photos and moments it will include."

But not everybody who is cutting back on shopping is cutting back on spending.

Allen Bryson, who lives in Hyde Park, said he and his wife are spending the same amount on the holidays this year as the past four. But instead of presents, they'll give gift cards.

"That's our way of saving," Bryson said. "We cut back on the emotional and psychological strain of running around, fighting with crowds and searching for sales. I don't have to fight with Big Bubba over that flat-screen TV."

And how does Bryson, 41, afford to keep up his level of spending, despite Mintel research that shows only a handful of consumers saying they weren't spending less than in previous years?

"We set aside money each month to be ready for the holidays," Bryson said. "We don't get to December and then say, 'Oh no, where are we getting \$700 from?'"

Eckberg's family is drawing a few names each and spending about \$5 to \$10 per gift this year. The South Looper said she won't go back to her old ways, even if her family's finances improve.

"It would be fun to be able to shop like I used to and buy all my nieces and nephews things," Eckberg said. "But now I can't see myself spending outrageous amounts like I used to."

KKYLES@TRIBUNE.COM



Early-morning shoppers hit Target on North Elston Avenue on Black Friday. A study found 27 percent of respondents planned to shorten their giving lists. PHIL VELASQUEZ/TRIBUNE

Shopping frugal

Holiday shoppers say they are going to be more frugal this holiday season and be less inclined to shop for items for themselves, according to an online survey Mintel research group posted last month. Approximately 63 percent said they're budgeting more than they did last year.

Retailers are taking note of the trend and stepping up to the plate with tempting discounts, according to Chris Haack, a senior analyst at Mintel.

"[Shoppers are] definitely cutting back, but they are looking for a good bargain and will buy it if they see it," Haack said. "Retailers have been playing to that, putting up coupons on sites months ago for redemption at stores. Consumers are doing their research and then snapping these deals up." KYRA KYLES, REDEYE



The gift of free

Oh, what to do if you have a lot of friends and family, but not much money for the holidays? Don't you worry your pretty little head. Gift-giving guru and author Robyn Spizman offers the following five gift alternatives:

Give them something of yours

"Maybe this is the year you pass something down that was meaningful to you—a baseball, a comic book," Spizman said.

Help a brotha (or sista) out

"Long after the fruit cakes are forgotten, people remember true help," Spizman said. "They remember when you repotted the plants at their front door when they no longer have the energy, or the soup you brought, because you made that by hand."

Link 'em in

"You might not have the money, but you might have a connection," Spizman said of offering a friend, colleague or acquaintance a networking or job lead.

Offer up a favor

You can help out a friend with favors including baby-sitting or running an errand for them, according to Spizman.

Social call

"Call someone and say, 'I'm thinking of you' and 'You mean the world to me.' That is beautiful," Spizman said. Or stop by to spread some good cheer. **RedEye note:** On that latter bit of advice, maybe call or text first in this age of automation.

AP, REDEYE

NUMBERS FROM THE ONLINE SURVEY

Percentage of shoppers, by type of store, who look at sale items before shopping for non-sale items:

64%

Department stores

53%

Mass merchandisers

53%

Discount apparel stores

What shoppers would spend extra money on after bills are paid:

13%

Holiday shopping

23%

Small extras for family members

9%

On themselves

A closer look

On Wednesday, Discover Financial Services released its annual holiday shopping survey looking at shopping trends and gift intentions for this holiday season. Some key numbers. **REDEYE**

47% Percentage of consumers who plan to spend between \$100 and \$500 this holiday season.

60% Percentage of shoppers who say they plan to stay within their holiday shopping budget.

63% Percentage of shoppers who say they are very concerned, concerned or somewhat concerned about their finances—down from 74 percent who said the same last year.

\$723

That's how much shoppers plan to spend on holiday gifts, compared to \$831 in last year's survey and \$896 in the 2007 survey. Women plan to spend more than men—\$742 versus \$702, respectively.

chicago

Officer in female bartender attack fired



Abbate

Chicago Tribune

Anthony Abbate was formally fired Tuesday, nearly three years after his off-duty pummeling of a female bartender was caught on video and blasted around the world, tarnishing the image of Chicago police.

The decision, by the Chicago Police Board, was long expected and brought relief to Karolina Obrycka, the woman he attacked, said her attorney, Terry Ekl.

But Ekl also said that without the videotape, Abbate's actions at the bar likely would have gone unpunished.

"What strikes both Karolina and myself is but for this video and the fact that the media ran with it the way they did, Anthony Abbate ... would still be a police officer today," he said. "There is such an obvious code of silence to protect officers who commit acts of misconduct."

The video also was key at the police board hearing after several witnesses refused to testify against Abbate.

Abbate was convicted of felony aggravated battery for the February 2007 attack on Obrycka, but he was spared prison and sentenced to two years of probation. A civil lawsuit is still pending against Abbate, who had been suspended without pay since April 2007.

Police Superintendent Jody Weis, who was hired in the wake of the scandal to restore public confidence, had recommended Abbate be fired.

On Tuesday, Weis said he was "very pleased" with the decision but cautioned that the allegations against Abbate are "not the norm" in the police department. He also said it's speculation to say Abbate wouldn't have been charged without the videotape evidence.

Department officials also said Tuesday that they have added more checks and balances to try to ferret out wrongdoing, including launching an evaluation system that monitors officers and the number of complaints against them.

"We've done a lot of things over the past year which I think ensures the integrity of our officers," Weis told reporters.



Beluga whale Puiji and her new calf, born Monday, swim together at the Shedd Aquarium.

Baby beluga survives first day

Chicago Tribune

Survival for a newborn beluga whale at the Shedd Aquarium remains a question mark as the little male tries to overcome birthing complications that forced four divers into his pool in a desperate move to get him to the surface to take his first breath.

The newborn, a 162-pound, 5-foot-4-inch calf, was a breech birth, coming out of the womb of his mother, 23-year-old Puiji, head first rather than tail first during a seven-hour delivery early Monday.

The birth probably caused an unnatural curve in his flukes—his large rear flippers—

which could result in longer-term problems, Shedd officials said.

When the baby emerged at 6:36 a.m. Monday, it appeared limp and was unable to reach the surface on its own, said Ken Ramirez, the Shedd's senior vice president for animal collections. Breech births among belugas aren't uncommon, he said, and in the past most of the babies soon died because of their inability to swim to the surface and their mother's inability to lift them to the surface.

This baby's tail curled into a slightly unnatural curve, which, as it hardened, may have left it in a shape that impeded his ability

to dive, Ramirez said. By 6:15 a.m. Tuesday, however, he had learned to overcome the impediment and nursed milk from Puiji for the first time.

"He swims a little erratically, and since 6:15 a.m. he has been nursing regularly, which is very encouraging," Ramirez said. "The flukes are not so different that our guests might notice it, and I think because he is here and we can control a lot of things around him, it is not a major concern."

The baby will remain under constant observation for several days. He and his mother are off viewing for the next few months.

Survey says ...

What makes O'Hare a good place to hook up? According to a study by Axe—yes, the maker of body sprays and antiperspirants—it could have something to do with long delays (perfect for meeting someone) and food options (a.k.a. date places). The company listed the Chicago hub in the top 10 on its list of the 33 best places to "make a connection."

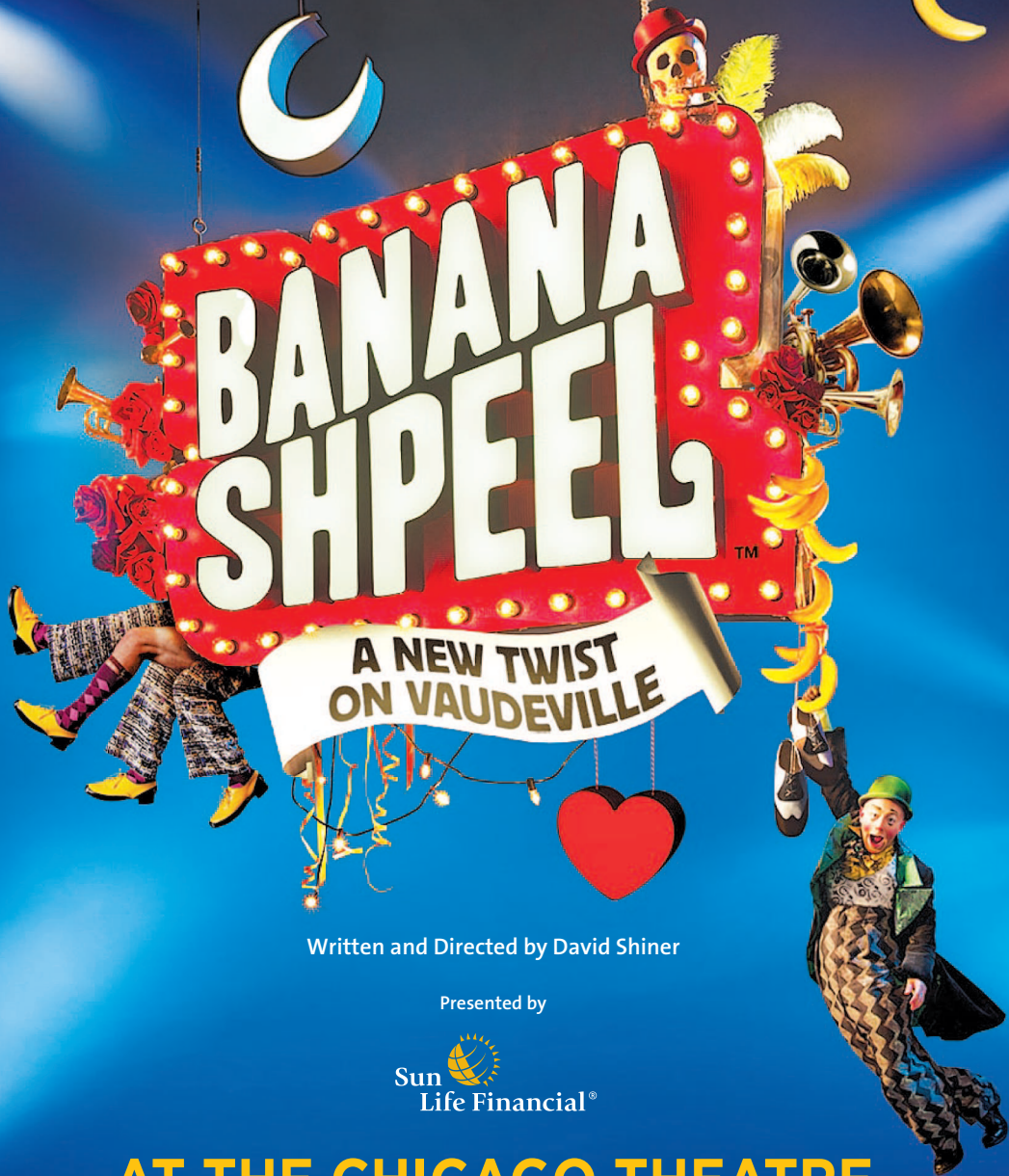
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2. John F. Kennedy International (New York)
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Terror suspect detained

A federal judge Tuesday ordered a Chicago suspect in an international terrorism plot detained pending trial. U.S. Magistrate Judge Nan Nolan said Tahawwur Hussain Rana was a risk to flee if he was released from custody.

Rana is a Pakistani native with Canadian citizenship who owns an immigration business and has an estimated net wealth of \$1.6 million, Nolan said.

"Mr. Rana, if he wanted, had the knowledge to be able to flee internationally," Nolan said.

Rana has been charged with providing material support to terrorism in connection with a planned

attack on a Danish newspaper that published cartoons about the Prophet Muhammad that outraged many in the Muslim world in 2005.

Nolan made her decision a day after prosecutors alleged Rana knew of last year's terror attack in Mumbai before it happened.

The judge offered no opinion on Rana being a danger to the community, saying risk of flight was enough to keep him detained, but she did say she was concerned about his alleged contacts with a foreign terror organization, Lashkar-e-Taiba, the group blamed for the Mumbai assault.

Rana's attorney, Patrick Blegen, told the judge

he took issue with the government's memo alleging Rana had knowledge about the Mumbai attack beforehand. The transcript of the recorded conversation prosecutors relied on was unintelligible in many spots, he said.

Prosecutors contend Rana was recorded offering congratulations to Mumbai planners, but Blegen said Rana was not speaking about Mumbai when he made those remarks.

Blegen also said he never specifically likened Rana to Gandhi, only that he was a member of an organization that ascribed to nonviolent beliefs.

Holiday light shortage?

It looks as if the Chicago area is just a little bit brighter this holiday season.

If you haven't bought your Christmas lights yet, you'd better hurry up. They're selling fast, according to local retailers.

Jermaine Reid, an assistant manager at the Home Depot at Lincoln Avenue and McCormick Road in Chicago, said Tuesday that the store has sold 3,000 light sets since Black Friday, a number he says is above normal, and that shelves there are almost bare. Elsewhere, a Target spokesman said that since that store expanded its line of LED Christmas lights, it has struggled to keep lights in stock.

And a branch manager at a Walgreens near Howard Street and Western Avenue said that store had only five multicolored light packages left. About 300 boxes have sold so far this year, he said—a number that's above average there.

Reid said he thinks people saved up for the Christmas season and are now willing to spend more on decorations than in past years. He also said if he were to order more lights now, they would not arrive for two weeks.

"They're doing what they already had been doing," Reid said of home decorators, "but they're doing it better than what they did in previous years."



IN REMEMBRANCE

Brandon Johnson, 5, is held by his mother, Melanie, during a candlelight memorial ceremony Tuesday at City Hall, an event sponsored by the city and the Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists. Melanie's brother, Anthony Stillo, died in 2008 at age 35, the victim of a drunken driver. **CHRIS WALKER/TRIBUNE**

Defense: Serial killer abused as child

As a teen, Andre Crawford was physically and sexually abused by a relative and forced to prostitute himself with her friends, an expert witness told jurors who will decide whether to impose the death penalty on the convicted serial killer.

But Alice Washington, testifying for the defense at Crawford's sentencing hearing Tuesday, said most of the sensational allegations in her report came from interviews with Crawford and were uncorroborated by independent evidence.

Crawford, 47, was convicted last week in the rapes and murders of 11 women and the rape and attempted murder of a 12th victim in New City in the 1990s.

Washington, a consultant who investigated Crawford's background in a bid to find reasons for the jury to spare him the death penalty, testified that Crawford and his sister were placed in foster care as infants after authorities found them living alone in squalor.

Bicyclist struck, killed by car on Northwest Side

A bicyclist died Tuesday after being struck by a car on the Northwest Side, authorities said.

Jepson Livingston, 32, was riding a bike when he was hit by a vehicle in the 3800 block of West Diversey Avenue, according to the Cook County medical examiner's office.

Livingston, of the 2700 block of North St. Louis Avenue, was declared dead at 12:57 p.m. at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center, a spokesman for the medical examiner's office said.

Man sought in armed holdups

Chicago Police on Tuesday asked for the public's help in catching a man who has robbed two businesses on the Southwest Side at gunpoint this month.

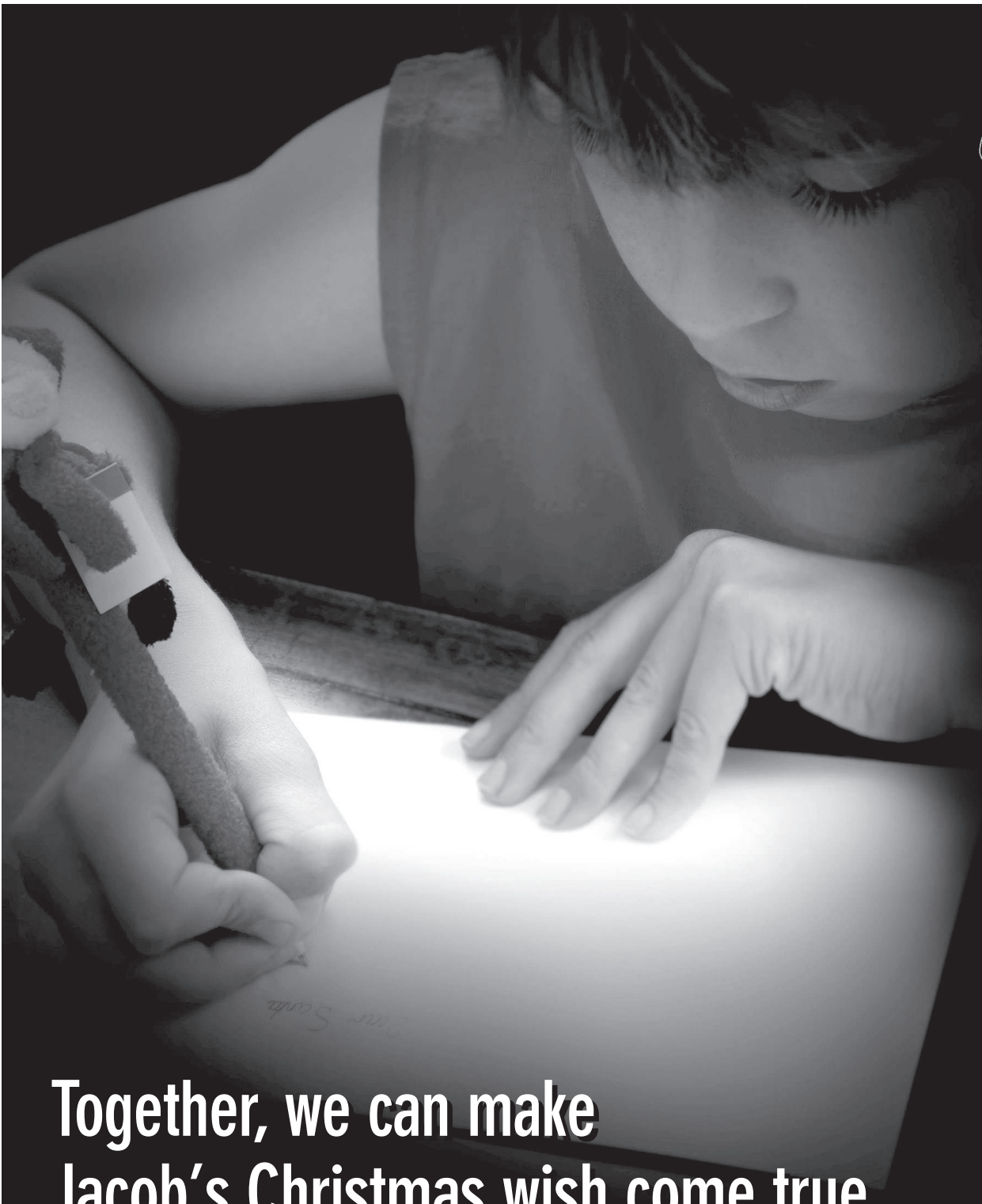
The man is suspected of robbing a cell phone store near 48th Street and Cicero Avenue on Dec. 3 and a restaurant near 54th Street and Harlem Avenue on Sunday, according to a business alert issued by the Wentworth Detective Area and released by police Tuesday. Both robberies took place in the Chicago Lawn Police District.

Cops: Pot-smoker hits squad car

A Chicago police squad car was hit by a motorist who apparently was smoking marijuana before the crash that sent two police officers to the hospital, police said.

Cited in the incident is Dion Reno, 22, of the 6400 block of South Oakley Avenue, police said.

The squad car was southbound on Western Avenue about 9:20 p.m. Tuesday when a Chevy Cavalier traveling east on 65th Street struck their car, police said. The location is about a block from Reno's home.



“Dear Santa,
This Christmas,
all I want is a
safe place to live
and people who
care about me.

Love, Jacob”

Together, we can make
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Gay marriage victory in D.C.



GETTY IMAGES

Deadly Afghan blast

1 A suicide car bomber struck Tuesday near the home of a former Afghan vice president and a hotel frequented by Westerners, killing at least eight people and wounding nearly 40 in a neighborhood considered one of Kabul's safest. Iraq and Pakistan also were rocked by bombings.

Obama rallies Dems

2 President Obama prodded Senate Democrats to overcome the last, lingering disputes blocking agreement on a national health care overhaul Tuesday, declaring they were "on the precipice" of enacting historic legislation.

Condom competition

3 New York City wants to "keep people excited" about safe sex, and is sponsoring a contest for the design of the wrapper for the city's next official condom. The winning art will be featured on several hundred thousand official condom wrappers.

Quarter-pounder with WiFi?

McDonald's said Monday it soon will offer free wireless Internet access at most of its U.S. fast-food restaurants as it tries to broaden its appeal still further.

Vaccine recall

Hundreds of thousands of swine flu shots for children have been recalled because tests indicate the vaccine doses lost some strength, government health officials said Tuesday.

4 **WASHINGTON** The City Council voted Tuesday to legalize gay marriage, giving supporters a victory after a string of recent defeats elsewhere and sending the issue to Congress, which has final say over laws in the nation's capital.

Mayor Adrian Fenty has promised to sign the bill, which passed 11-2, and gay couples could begin marrying as early as March if Congress allows it to become law. Democratic congressional leaders have suggested they are reluctant to get involved, though gay marriage opponents say they will try to get it overturned either in Congress or at the polls.

LEGAL STATES

If the bill becomes law, Washington, D.C., will join Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts and Vermont in issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples. They will be able to wed in New Hampshire starting in January.

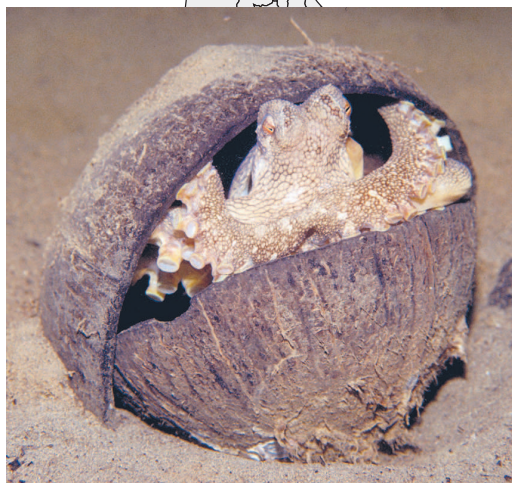
Federal lawmakers declined to weigh in the last time they had a chance, after the council voted in May to recognize gay marriages performed elsewhere. Congress let that bill become law without taking any action, avoiding what could have amounted to a referendum on gay marriage.

The bill that passed Tuesday had overwhelming support among council members and the outcome was no surprise.

Two members said "I do" when their turn came to vote, and a packed chamber erupted into cheers and clapping when the bill passed.

"Make no mistake, 2009 has been one hell of a year for marriage equality," said David Catania, who introduced the bill and is one of two openly gay council members.

The "no" votes included former mayor Marion Barry, who said, "I don't," when it was his turn.



Deep sea discovery

5 Australian scientists have discovered an octopus in Indonesia that collects coconut shells for shelter—unusually sophisticated behavior the researchers believe is the first evidence of tool use in an invertebrate animal. Their findings were published Tuesday in the journal *Current Biology*. **GETTY IMAGES**

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NAME PLATE

When the Big Ten added Penn State as an 11th team in 1990, it didn't change its name to the Big 11. That would just sound weird. Instead, it just changed its logo to sneak in the No. 11 in the logo, "Da Vinci Code"-style. If the Big Ten adds a 12th team, it won't change its name to Big 12, because that's already taken. So, RedEye decided to add the No. 12 into the Big Ten logo to save some time. Take a look.

THE ORIGINAL

SEE THAT 12? SNEAKY.



12th amendment

Big Ten conference looking into expanding league to 12 teams

the next 12 to 18 months for expanding the league. The league's presidents and chancellors decided this month that the timing is right to study adding a 12th school.

The Big Ten said in a statement it also looked at expansion in 1993, 1998 and 2003. Penn State was the last team to join in 1990, and Notre Dame rejected an offer in 1999.

The league, whose offices are in suburban Chicago, said no action on expansion is expected soon. It said it hopes to gather information before engaging in formal discussions with any schools.

With that in mind, RedEye decided to suggest some schools for the Big Ten to consider and why they'd be good choices.

Associated Press

The Big Ten might be getting bigger.

Commissioner Jim Delany said Tuesday the conference is going to explore options during



Notre Dame

Sure, they rejected the Big Ten once, but now that it's clear the Fighting Irish need a conference to thrive, maybe they'd reconsider.



University of Phoenix

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Chicago St.

The Cougars play in the Great West conference, and that just doesn't make sense.



Columbia College

The college on Michigan Avenue is well known for its arts and media programs, not so much for its sports. Or lack thereof. Sure, its intramural baseball team won the 2003-04 inter-conference championship (thank you, **colum.edu**), but that won't cut it in the Big Ten.



Why they'd fit: They've got that powerhouse football team. Oh, wait. And that juggernaut basketball team. Uhh, right. And that incredible ... oh, forget it.



« **Bonus:** At least they've got that big-money contract with NBC. All the Big Ten has now is the Big Ten Network—if you can find it.

Why they'd fit: OK, actually fielding sports teams would be difficult, but the Big Ten with this school would be able to pioneer fantasy college sports.



« **Bonus:** They already have a high-tech stadium: University of Phoenix Stadium, home of the NFL's Cardinals. Unfortunately it's in Arizona.

Why they'd fit: They don't have a good football team, like most Big Ten teams. Actually, the Cougars don't have a football team at all. No big deal.



« **Bonus:** Great cheerleading program. The team won the 2001 Black College National Championship. They've got spirit, yes they do.

Why they'd fit: Once CC attains Division I status, it would be a Big Ten team that Northwestern's basketball team could beat. We kid, we kid.



« **Bonus:** They'd have excellent TV and print coverage.

Playoff D-Day



dr. fantasy

D.R. SMITH
redeyesports
@tribune.com

If you're one of the lucky owners to qualify for your fantasy football league's playoffs, pat yourself on the back. But hey, don't dump Gatorade on your head quite yet. There's still a fantasy football championship to be won. Here are a few tips to get you there.

GET DEFENSIVE

Few defenses have dominated the NFL week in and week out in 2009. The highest scoring Ds often are the ones that face some of the league's most wretched teams. With that in mind, here are a few D's for Week 15.

Houston defense vs. St. Louis

The Texans play a Rams team that last week played third-string rookie QB Keith Null. Null may turn out to have the world's most appropriate name against the Texans.

Cleveland defense vs. Kansas City

This game might get lower ratings than C-Span, but the Browns, who held Pittsburgh in check last week, get KC's No Sunshine Band, whose best offensive player was Larry Johnson's backup at midseason.

Arizona defense vs. Detroit

The Cards' Karlos Dansby might be the best linebacker you've never heard of.

LOCKS OF THE WEEK

Ray Rice, running back, vs. Bears

Brian Urlacher might want to put on a blindfold on the sideline to avoid watching the Bears' rush defense.

Carson Palmer, quarterback, vs. San Diego

Look for C-Palm to rebound against the Chargers after an off-week against the Vikes.

Roy E. Williams, wide receiver, vs. New Orleans

Williams, not Jason Witten, has been Tony Romo's favorite red zone target lately.

CHUMPS OF THE WEEK

LeSean McCoy, running back vs. San Francisco

The Eagles are saying all the right things about McCoy, but he's just not getting the touches to justify starting in fantasy.

Hines Ward, wide receiver, vs. Green Bay

The Steelers look lost while the Packers' D looks found.

Ryan Fitzpatrick, quarterback, vs. New England

Don't get too cute here and play the matchup just because the Pats' defense is struggling.

D.R. SMITH IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.

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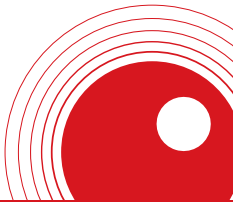
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Webtastic

Please welcome Webby the Web Ball. It represents RedEye's social media friends from Facebook, Twitter and Tracy's mobile contact list. redeyechicago.com/5on5.



TOPIC	BRIAN MOORE brmoore@chicagonow.com	TRACY SWARTZ twitter.com/tracyswartz	DR. FANTASY redeyesports@tribune.com	JEN PATTERSON "Monsters in the Morning"	WEBBY twitter.com/redeyesports
1 Lovie Smith thinks the Bears can make the playoffs next season. Do you?	What does he care? He's not going to be around anyway.	Only if they get the indefatigable Jimmy Clausen. He lives up to his many titles.	The fantasy football playoffs perhaps.	That's like saying the Cubs will win the World Series next year. What, are they playing at Wrigley again?	Sure, if by "Bears" Lovie means his fantasy team, and even that's a stretch. — Geoff Colbath
2 What last-minute Christmas gift do you have in mind for Chicago sports fans?	A short memory or, even better, amnesia.	Charlie Weis as Bears offensive coordinator. I think no one's more offensive.	I'd love to see Roy Halladay under the tree for the Cubs, but it looks like we'll get a lump of coal instead.	A Milton Bradley trade and a DH on the South Side.	Charlie Weis as the Bears' new offensive coordinator. — Joseph Mainwaring
3 How's it feel to have one of the best teams in the NHL?	Great, but I fear the inevitable playoff failure.	Cool! I'm ready for my Pat-down now! Kane's the man!	Good, but it's hockey so my excitement ceiling isn't very high.	It's about time. The Hawks have saved us from the rest of the Chicago sports teams.	Canadian. — Doug Martin
4 What's it mean that the Cubs and White Sox are fairly quiet as most big-name free agents start to sign?	They have decided to give up now instead of waiting until next August.	That Ozzie's foot is in his mouth and Lou's mouth is full too (with a Twinkie).	That we might get stuck with Doug Mientkiewicz or Brad Ausmus has our "big" signings.	Cubs can't move Bradley, and the Sox are staying under the radar as usual.	Jim Hendry is not allowed to sign any more free agents. — Rebecca Allen
5 How could things get worse for Tiger Woods?	He is caught on camera in a cameo on "Jersey Shore."	He could turn into a man-eating Tiger.	As a way to raise money for health-care reform, Obama institutes a tax on every sext message sent.	Rachel Uchitel and Elin Woods could become BFFs.	"Gasp! You found a 5-iron where?" — Brit A. McSheffery

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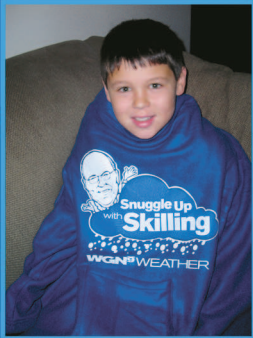


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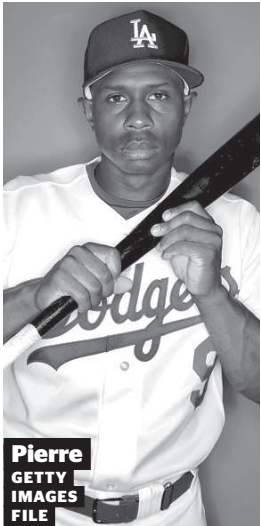
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Pierre
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Pierre back in town

Saying he felt like he had “been in the witness protection program” in L.A., Juan Pierre was overjoyed at rejoining Ozzie Guillen and being back in Chicago, albeit with the White Sox instead of the Cubs.

Pierre was obtained by the Sox on Tuesday, with two minor-league pitchers going back to the Dodgers. Plus, the Dodgers will pay more than half of Pierre’s remaining \$18.5 million salary, with the Sox picking up \$3 million this year and \$5 million next. His acquisition means Scott Podsednik’s days on the South Side are done, although the Cubs may still have some interest.

“I’m not going to criticize a guy [Podsednik] who helped us win a championship and last year did everything he could to keep us going,” General Manager Ken Williams said.



Patrick Kane celebrates his 21st birthday Monday at Harry Caray’s Italian Steakhouse.

Birthday boy, er, man

With the Blackhawks’ Ice Crew girls surrounding him, Patrick Kane blew out the candles on his 21st birthday cake Monday — nearly a month after his actual b-day.

The Blackhawks star had a road game against Calgary on his birthday (Nov. 19), which is why the team waited until Monday to throw him a party. That, and they wanted to combine the celebration with Kane’s holiday toy drive.

“I tried to treat it like it was just another day,” said Kane during Monday’s celebration at Harry Caray’s Italian Steakhouse. “But I hear after that, there are no more good birthdays.”

So, where has Kane been clubbing since turning 21?

“Manor is pretty cool,” Kane said. “And I’ve been to Underground. That’s pretty much it. Sometimes I want to be low-key and not get recognized. At the same time I realize the position I’m in.”

Kane was sporting an impressive cut over his left eye after falling onto the butt of his hockey stick during Sunday’s game against Tampa Bay. Rather than try to hide it with makeup, sunglasses or a hat, Kane treated his shiner like a badge of honor.

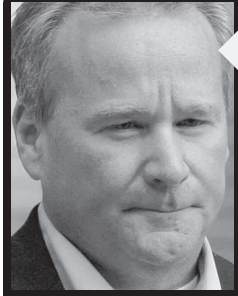
KANE READY TO PLAY

Patrick Kane will play Wednesday when the Blackhawks take on the St. Louis Blues at the United Center. Kane left Sunday night’s 4-0 victory over the Lightning in the first period after sustaining an eye injury when he was tripped by defenseman Matt Smaby and the butt end of Kane’s stick struck him just above the left eye. “I’ll be ready to go tomorrow,” Kane said after Tuesday’s practice.

“[Sunday] I wasn’t feeling so great,” said Kane. “Now I feel great. I think chicks like it. I hope it keeps going in that direction.”

Vince Vaughn was in attendance Monday and chatted with the athletes there—including Blackhawks legend Bobby Hull, the Bears’ Israel Idonije and Bears Super Bowl MVP Richard Dent—when he wasn’t taking photos with guests.

Blackhawks teammate Adam Burish, retired pitcher Rob Dibble, “Mr. Cub” Ernie Banks and CBS anchor Bill Kurtis also made appearances.



An Illinois insurance executive has pleaded guilty to stalking and shooting nude videos of ESPN reporter Erin Andrews. Michael David Barrett (left) entered his plea Tuesday during a hearing attended by Andrews and her attorney in L.A.

Sports card and memorabilia maker Upper Deck Co. said Tuesday it will continue its relationship with Tiger Woods. The company, and its Upper Deck Authenticated collectibles division, said the two “look forward to his eventual return.”

L.A. LAKERS 96, BULLS 87

Kobe Bryant scored a season-high 42 points Tuesday, beating the fading Bulls 96-87. Down one through three quarters, the Lakers pulled away early in the fourth and sent the Bulls to their 11th loss in 13 games.

» Minnesota 89, N. Illinois 48 » **Wednesday’s college basketball games:** Northwestern vs. N. Florida, 8 p.m. ESPNU; DePaul vs. American, 7:30 p.m.; UIC vs. Oregon St., 7 p.m.; Bradley vs. Loyola, 7:05 p.m.



watch dog

WHIZZER
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If anyone sees Brian (pic on Page 17), can you tell him to let me in? It’s getting pretty cold in this dog house. Right, Tiger? Here now, my TV picks.



**NHL
Blackhawks vs. St. Louis**

7:30 p.m. CSN

We’d like a good whipping of the Blues since the Cubs can’t seem to beat the Cards.



**NBA
Oklahoma City vs. Dallas**

7 p.m. ESPN

Mavs owner Mark Cuban is always good for a good sideline show.



**COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Wisconsin vs. Cal Poly**

8 p.m. Big Ten Network

The Badgers vs. the Mustangs: Next on “When Animals Attack.”



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CHEAP DATE

NYE '09

9 New Year's Eve parties ringing in at \$50 or less

By Lisa Arnett

With the pricey cost of party tickets and pressure to dress to the nines, New Year's Eve can be a blast ... or a letdown. Instead of banking your savings on one blowout night that might not match your big-dollar expectations, lower the price tag and celebrate knowing you got the biggest bang for your buck.

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Get ready for a Studio 54 vibe in Andersonville at this bash, dubbed Club 5400 for the address. Wander between the Attic's dance party and the Rec Room, which morphs from sports bar to lounge.

Price: \$10

Drinks: Cash bar, champagne toast

Food: Appetizer buffet

Extras: Coat check

Tickets: Purchase in person at the bar; a limited number usually are available at the door

Red Kiva

1108 W. Randolph St.
312-226-5577

Hobnob with local literati at this West Loop lounge during the Stories & Bubbly party, which starts with



Red Kiva
METROMIX FILE

storytelling by 2nd Story authors and continues with DJ sets after midnight.

Price: \$25 in advance; \$35 at the door

Drinks: Champagne toast, cash bar including \$10 champagne cocktails

Food: Snacks, dessert bar

Tickets: storiesandwine.org

Mac's

1801 W. Division St.
773-782-4400

Keep it low-key at this Wicker Park tavern, where you can stake out a booth (first come, first served) for your crew or dance in the aisles to pop and rock beats.

Price: \$35 drink package

Drinks: Domestic beer, wine

and call liquor (10 p.m.-1 a.m.)

Food: Regular a la carte menu available

Extras: Party favors, champagne toast; \$5 champagne cocktails for those opting out of the \$35 drink package

Tickets: By phone at 773-782-3040

The Rockbox

2624 N. Lincoln Ave.
773-871-0205

Cover band Men from Mars mans the stage at this late-night Lincoln Park bar.

Price: \$39 for general admission; \$49 for VIP tickets

Drinks: Domestic and import beer, wine, call liquor (8 p.m.-midnight)

Food: VIP tickets include an appetizer buffet (8-10 p.m.)

Extras: VIP partiers also get access to a DJ-fueled dance party on the second floor.

Tickets: Buy in person at the bar

Celtic Crown

4301 N. Western Ave.
773-588-1110

Ring in 2010 the Irish way at this laid-back Lincoln Square pub. Tables are first come, first served, so arrive early to stake out space for your group.

Price: \$40

Drinks: Domestic beer, wine and call liquor (8 p.m.-midnight), champagne toast

Food: Regular a la carte menu available

Extras: Party favors

Tickets: Buy in person at the bar

Fat Cat

4840 N. Broadway.
773-506-3100

Missed out on tickets to Lumen's sold-out '20s-themed bash? Take your feather boa or fedora to this Uptown hangout's annual anti-prohibition-themed party.

Price: \$45

Drinks: Domestic beer, select premium liquors and wine (9 p.m.-1 a.m.), champagne toast

Food: Appetizer buffet

Extras: Party favors

Tickets: Call the bar at 773-506-3100

Angels & Mariachis

1721 W. Division St.
773-227-7772

Sip margaritas till well past midnight at this Wicker Park cantina.

Price: \$50 drink package

Drinks: Beer, sangria, house margaritas and premium liquor (10 p.m.-1 a.m.), champagne toast

Food: Unlimited taco bar

Extras: Party favors, option to opt out of drink package

Tickets: angelschicago.com

Transit

1431 W. Lake St. 312-491-8600

It's not the freshest hangout in town, but it's one of the most affordable tix in the club category.

Price: \$50

Drinks: Beer, wine, premium liquors (8 p.m.-midnight)

Food: None

Extras: Party favors

Tickets: groovetickets.com or 312-491-8600

Crossroads Public House

2630 N. Clark St.
773-248-3900

Leave it to this Lincoln Park bar, known for its \$20 Friday night eat-and-drink packages, to pack lots of value into NYE. The open bar lasts an impressive six hours.

Price: \$50

Drinks: Beer, wine, premium liquors (7 p.m.-1 a.m.)

Food: Dinner buffet and late-night breakfast snacks

Extras: Party favors; free New Year's Day brunch (\$15 value) for the first 25 ticket purchasers

Tickets: Call the bar at 773-248-3900

LISA ARNETT IS THE METROMIX NIGHTLIFE AND SHOPPING PRODUCER. LARNETT@TRIBUNE.COM

best bets

metromix@tribune.com

'Viva Las Vegas'

Columbia College, 1104 S. Wabash Ave. 312-369-6708

wed 16
FREE

Rod Blagojevich hairs his opinion—oops, we mean "airs"—during the December installment of Cinema Slapdown, a film screening-and-debate series with Columbia faculty. The disgraced ex-gov also signs his book, "The Governor." 7 p.m.

Happy Hookers

Mother's Too, 14 W. Division St. 312-266-7444

Crochet to your heart's content at this new weekly craft night. BYO supplies or cough up a small fee (\$3-\$10) for materials. All levels welcome. Drink specials include \$4 cocktails. 7-9 p.m.

Threat Level

Nightingale Gallery, 1048 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Watch short films from LGBT artists at the same time as an audience in Brooklyn, New York, during this two-city screening connected via live video. 7:30 p.m. \$5-\$10. 847-436-0899.

Slam One Back with Santa

Avenue Tavern, 2916 N. Broadway. 773-844-9296

thu 17

Score a free photo with St. Nick and his crew of sexy elves at the annual bash.

Also, get \$5 holiday martinis. 8 p.m.-midnight. No cover.

Cocktail Class

Nacional 27, 325 W. Huron St. 312-664-2727

Learn how to make festive champagne sippers with mixologist Adam Seger. Includes drinks and appetizers. 5:30 p.m. \$20. RSVP recommended.

Found Footage Festival

Lakeshore Theater, 3175 N. Broadway. 773-472-3492

fri 18

See videos rescued from garage sales, thrift stores, warehouses and trash bins nationwide as comedians Joe Pickett and Nick Prueher host a touring showcase. 7:30 and 10:30 p.m. \$12.

NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNERS

33 CLUB

4 p.m.: Four-course dinner (\$65), premium drink package (\$100, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.) or both (\$140). Includes party favors, a balloon drop and a midnight champagne toast. DJ Carla Washington spins; 1419 N. Wells St. 312-664-1419.

BRASSERIE JO

Three-course (first seating, 5 p.m.) or four-course dinner (second seating, 6 p.m.). Includes live music, party favors and midnight champagne toast. \$39-\$59; 59 W. Hubbard St. 312-595-0800.

DELEECE GRILL PUB

5 p.m.: Four-course dinner featuring bolete mushroom soup, crisped lobster ravioli, braised pork shank, bacon-wrapped halibut and chocolate mousse with bourbon-soaked cherries. Regular menu also available. Includes a

MORE ONLINE!

Head to metromix.com for 75-plus more New Year's dining ideas.

midnight PBR toast. \$50. Beer pairings available for an additional \$15; 3313 N. Clark St. 773-348-3313.

THE DINING ROOM AT KENDALL COLLEGE

Includes appetizers, cocktail reception (7-8 p.m.), four-course dinner with wine pairings, DJ, party favors and midnight champagne toast. Menu features butternut squash soup, shiraz-braised short ribs and pear mousse. \$100; 900 N. North Branch St. Kendall College, 3rd Floor. 312-752-2196.

ELATE

Early four-course dinner (\$60, seatings start at 6 p.m.) or late five-course dinner with a midnight champagne toast (\$85,

seatings start at 9 p.m.). Menus feature smoked duck breast salad, grilled octopus salad, roasted chestnut risotto, striped bass with sunchoke puree, caramelized banana cake and more; 111 W. Huron St. Hotel Felix. 312-202-9900.

GRAHAM ELLIOT

Four-course menu (first seating, 6 p.m.) or eight-course menu (second seating, 8:30 p.m.) with a sparkling cocktail. \$79-\$129; 217 W. Huron St. 312-624-9975.

JERRY'S

Five-course sandwich-focused menu. Beer pairings available for an additional \$15. Selections include butternut squash soup; lobster roll with avocado, cucumber

and pickled onions; and chocolate bread pudding with caramel sauce and vanilla custard. Seatings at 6:30 p.m., 9:30 p.m. Grateful Dead cover band Scarlet Mountain performs 8 p.m.-midnight. \$50; 1938 W. Division St. 773-235-1006.

LM LE RESTAURANT

Early four-course dinner (\$55, 5:30 p.m.) or later five-course dinner (\$85, 7 p.m.). Menus include tuna carpaccio, roasted venison strip loin, braised beef cheeks and more; 4539 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-942-7585.

NACIONAL 27

Early three-course early (\$45, seatings start at 5 p.m.) or late five-course dinner (\$95, seatings start at 8 p.m.). Selections include shrimp skewers, empanadas and barbecued skirt steak. Also includes a



33 Club
METROMIX FILE

champagne toast and party favors. DJ George spins; 325 W. Huron St. 312-664-2727.

PARK 52

Early three-course dinner (\$40, 5-8 p.m.). Wine pairings available for an additional \$25. Late party (\$60, 9 p.m.-2 a.m.) featuring appetizers, mini-desserts, live music, DJ and midnight champagne toast in souvenir glasses; 5201

S. Harper Ave. 773-241-5200.

PASHA

8 p.m.: Five-course Spanish meal, a glass of champagne and live music by the Bandoleros. \$150; 802 W. Randolph St. 312-243-4442.

PELAGO RISTORANTE

9 p.m.: Six-course meal. Menu includes salmon carpaccio with asparagus puree and

tomato salad; lentil soup with shrimp and crab; dover sole ravioli with caviar and chive sauce; and veal medallions. Also includes a glass of Prosecco di Conegliano Marco Ceschin. \$125; 201 E. Delaware Pl. Raffaello Hotel. 312-280-0700.

SEPIA

Four-course meal (\$65, 5:30-7:30 p.m.) or five-course meal with a cocktail (\$85, 8-9:30 p.m.). Wine pairings

available for an additional \$45 or \$60; 123 N. Jefferson St. 312-441-1920.

ZOCALO

Four-course dinner featuring corn tamales, tequila-marinated grilled skirt steak and more. Includes a glass of cava, DJ, favors and a champagne or tequila toast. Seatings start at 7 and 9 p.m. \$45; 358 W. Ontario St. 312-302-9977.

MOTION PICTURE
DIRECTORY

 Handicapped Access  Digital Sound
 Dolby Stereo  No Passes  Hearing - Impaired

G - General audience PG - Parental guidance suggested
PG-13 - Parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13
R - Restricted, under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian
NC-17 - No one 17 and under admitted

600 N. MICHIGAN (AMC)

600 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago
888-AMC-4FUN
Show times change daily &

AMC Select - The best specialty films

- **Invictus** (PG-13) 1:20, 4:45, 7:50, 10:50
- **Armored** (PG-13) 3:15, 5:30, 8:15, 10:45
- **Brothers** (R) 2:10, 5:00, 8:00, 10:40
- **Old Dogs** (PG) 2:20, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30
- **Twilight: Moon** (PG-13) 3:45, 7:00, 10:15
- **Twilight: Moon** (PG-13) 1:15 P.M.
- **The Blind Side** (PG-13) 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30
- **2012** (PG-13) 2:30, 6:15, 9:45
- **Christmas Carol** (PG) 1:35, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00
- **AMC Select An Education** (PG-13) 4:15, 7:20, 10:00

LANDMARK CENTURY CENTRE CINEMA (LANDMARK)

2828 North Clark St., Chicago
(773) 509-4949

- **Fantastic Fox** (PG) 2:00, 4:50, 7:15, 9:30
- **Bad Lieutenant** (R) 1:55, 4:40, 7:25, 10:10
- **A Serious Man** (R) 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:05
- **An Education** (PG-13) 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:45
- **Red Cliff** (R) 1:35, 5:00, 8:30
- **Coco Before** (PG-13) 1:30, 7:10
- **New York** (R) 4:10, 9:50
- **Breaking Point** (R) 1:50, 4:25, 7:35, 9:55

CITY NORTH 14 (KERASOTES)

2600 N. Western Ave.
(800) 326-3264 #1642

- **RiffTrax** (NR) ★ 7:00 P.M.
- **Princess-Frog** (G) ★ 12:10, 2:00, 2:40, 4:30, 5:10, 6:50, 7:30, 9:10, 9:50
- **Armored** (PG-13) ★ 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30
- **Armored** (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 1:20, 3:40, 6:10, 8:40, 11:00
- **Brothers** (R) ★ 1:50, 4:50, 7:40, 10:40
- **Ninja Assassin** (R) 12:30, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:15
- **The Blind Side** (PG-13) 12:30, 3:20, 6:20, 9:20
- **The Blind Side** (PG-13) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
- **Planet 51** (PG) 1:30, 3:50, 6:05, 8:30, 10:45
- **Twilight: Moon** (PG-13) 12:40, 1:10, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30, 10:20
- **2012** (PG-13) 3:00, 6:40, 10:10
- **C'mas Carol 3D** (PG) 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40
- **Precious: Novel** (R) 2:20, 5:00, 8:15, 10:50

DAVIS THEATRE (VALUE)

4614 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago
(773) 784-0893

- **Invictus** (PG-13) ★ 4:50, 7:30, 10:10
- **Brothers** (R) 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
- **Everybody** (PG-13) 4:15, 6:15, 8:15, 10:15
- **Twilight: Moon** (PG-13) 4:45, 7:20, 10:00

FORD CITY 14 (AMC)

S. Cicero at 76th, Chicago
888-AMC-4FUN
Show times change daily

AMC Select - The best specialty films

- **Princess-Frog** (G) 1:00, 2:00, 3:10, 4:20, 5:25, 6:40, 7:45, 9:00, 10:00
- **Invictus** (PG-13) 1:20, 4:15, 7:05, 9:55
- **Armored** (PG-13) 1:10, 2:30, 3:30, 4:40, 5:40, 6:50, 7:50, 9:05, 10:00
- **Everybody** (PG-13) 1:05, 5:35, 10:00
- **Old Dogs** (PG) 3:25, 8:00
- **Ninja Assassin** (R) 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
- **Planet 51** (PG) 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:30
- **Twilight: Moon** (PG-13) 1:00, 2:20, 3:50, 5:20, 6:45, 8:20, 9:40
- **AMC Select Precious: Novel** (R) 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:20
- **The Blind Side** (PG-13) 1:30, 4:25, 7:10, 9:55
- **2012** (PG-13) 3:00, 6:15, 9:35
- **Christmas Carol** (PG) 1:55, 4:30, 7:00, 9:25

GENE SISKEL FILM CENTER

164 State Street
312-846-2800

- **Scarecrow** (NR) 6:00 P.M.
- **The General** (NR)
- **Antonio Gaudi** (NR) 6:15, 7:45
- **Severed Ways** (NR) 8:00 P.M.

LOGAN THEATRE

2646 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago
(773) 252-0628

- **Law Abiding** (R) 2:05, 4:10, 6:20, 8:30
- **The Box** (PG-13) 2:10, 4:20, 6:30, 8:40
- **Men Who Stare** (R) 2:00, 4:00, 6:05, 8:10
- **Christmas Carol** (PG) 2:05, 4:10, 6:15, 8:20

MUSIC BOX

3733 N. Southport, Chicago
(773) 871-6604

- **Collapse** (NR) 5:20, 7:20, 9:40
- **The Red Shoes** (NR) 5:00, 8:00

PIPERS ALLEY (AMC)

1608 N. Wells, Chicago
888-AMC-4FUN
Show times change daily

- **AMC Select The Road** (R) 2:00, 4:30, 7:00
- **AMC Select Boondock II** (R) 1:50, 4:50
- **AMC Select The Messenger** (R) 2:30, 5:20, 8:00
- **AMC Select Good Hair** (PG-13) 5:05 P.M.
- **The Blues Bros.** (R) 2:15, 7:20

RIVER EAST 21 (AMC)

322 E. Illinois Street
888-AMC-4FUN
Show times change daily

AMC Select - The best specialty films

- **AMC Select Up in the Air** (R) 11:30, 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30, 5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30
- **AMC Select The Road** (R) 11:05, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 10:40
- **RiffTrax** (NR) 7:00 P.M.
- **Princess-Frog** (G) 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40
- **Princess-Frog** (G) 12:40, 3:20, 6:00, 8:40
- **Invictus** (PG-13) 11:50, 1:25, 3:50, 4:50, 7:10, 8:10, 10:35
- **Larger Th** (PG) 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15, 10:45
- **Armored** (PG-13) 12:20, 2:45, 6:10, 8:25, 9:50, 10:50
- **Brothers** (R) 11:10, 1:55, 4:55, 7:45, 10:30
- **Everybody** (PG-13) 11:15, 2:05, 4:40, 7:20, 10:05
- **Fantastic Fox** (PG) 11:40, 2:15, 4:35, 7:05, 9:25
- **Ninja Assassin** (R) 1:15, 4:00, 6:45, 9:20
- **Planet 51** (PG) 11:00, 1:20, 3:40
- **Twilight: Moon** (PG-13) 11:25, 12:25, 2:35, 3:35, 5:40, 6:50, 8:50, 10:00
- **AMC Select Precious: Novel** (R) 11:20, 2:10, 5:00, 7:55, 10:40
- **The Blind Side** (PG-13) 1:35, 4:45, 7:50, 10:45
- **2012** (PG-13) 11:20, 2:45, 10:10
- **C'mas Carol 3D** (PG) 11:45, 2:20, 5:05, 7:40, 10:20

CROWN VILLAGE 18 (KERASOTES)

7000 Carpenter Rd., Skokie
(800) 326-3264 #2309

- **Bad Lieutenant** (R) ★ 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:00
- **Invictus** (PG-13) ★ 12:30, 1:00, 3:20, 4:40, 6:20, 7:00, 9:20, 10:20

(continued)

CROWN VILLAGE 18 (KERASOTES) (continued)

- **Princess-Frog** (G) ★ 12:10, 1:50, 2:40, 4:20, 5:10, 6:50, 7:30, 9:10, 9:50
- **Armored** (PG-13) ★ 1:20, 3:45, 6:05, 8:20, 10:35
- **Brothers** (R) ★ 2:10, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15
- **Everybody** (PG-13) ★ 12:15, 2:50, 5:20, 8:00, 10:30
- **Ninja Assassin** (R) 2:20, 5:15, 7:45, 10:10
- **Old Dogs** (PG) 2:00, 4:20, 7:20, 9:45
- **The Blind Side** (PG-13) 12:40, 1:30, 3:40, 4:50, 6:45, 7:50, 9:40, 10:40
- **Planet 51** (PG) 1:15, 3:50, 6:15, 9:15
- **Twilight: Moon** (PG-13) 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30
- **2012** (PG-13) 12:50, 2:30, 4:45, 6:10, 8:10, 9:55
- **C'mas Carol 3D** (PG) 1:45, 4:15, 6:40, 9:00
- **Precious: Novel** (R) 1:40, 4:30, 7:15, 10:05

WEBSTER PLACE (KERASOTES)

1471 W. Webster Ave., Chicago
(800) 326-3264 #1641

- **RiffTrax** (NR) ★ 7:00 P.M.
- **Invictus** (PG-13) ★ 12:50, 3:00, 4:00, 6:15, 7:00, 9:30, 10:10
- **Me and Orson** (PG-13) ★ 1:50, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
- **Up in the Air** (R) ★ 2:00, 2:30, 4:45, 5:15, 7:30, 8:00, 10:15, 10:40
- **Up in the Air** (R) ★ 1:00, 3:45, 6:30, 9:15
- **Brothers** (R) ★ 12:40, 3:40, 6:50, 9:45
- **Everybody** (PG-13) ★ 1:10, 3:50, 6:20, 9:00
- **The Blind Side** (PG-13) 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:20
- **Twilight: Moon** (PG-13) 1:30, 4:30, 7:40, 10:30
- **2012** (PG-13) 10:05 P.M.

SHOWPLACE 14- GALEWOOD CROSSINGS (KERASOTES)

E. Side of Central Ave., just S. of Grand Ave.
(800) 326-3264 #1646

- **Invictus** (PG-13) ★ 12:20, 1:00, 3:20, 4:00, 6:20, 7:00, 9:30, 10:00
- **Old Dogs** (PG) 12:30, 2:50, 5:00, 7:45, 10:15
- **The Blind Side** (PG-13) 1:10, 4:15, 7:15, 10:20
- **Planet 51** (PG) 1:15, 3:50, 6:50
- **Twilight: Moon** (PG-13) 1:30, 4:30, 7:40, 10:40
- **2012** (PG-13) 3:00, 6:40, 10:10
- **C'mas Carol 3D** (PG) 2:00, 4:20, 6:45, 9:10
- **Precious: Novel** (R) 1:50, 4:40, 7:20, 9:55

CICERO SHOWPLACE 14 (KERASOTES)

4779 W. Cermak
(800) 326-3264 #1644

- **Invictus** (PG-13) ★ 12:20, 1:00, 3:20, 4:00, 6:20, 7:00, 9:30, 10:00
- **Princess-Frog** (G) ★ 12:10, 1:40, 2:40, 4:10, 5:10, 6:30, 7:30, 8:50, 9:50
- **Armored** (PG-13) ★ 1:20, 2:20, 3:40, 4:50, 6:10, 7:10, 9:00, 9:40
- **Everybody** (PG-13) ★ 9:20 P.M.
- **Ninja Assassin** (R) 2:30, 5:20, 7:50, 10:30
- **Old Dogs** (PG) 12:30, 2:50, 5:00, 7:45, 10:15
- **The Blind Side** (PG-13) 1:10, 4:15, 7:15, 10:20
- **Planet 51** (PG) 1:15, 3:50, 6:50
- **Twilight: Moon** (PG-13) 1:30, 4:30, 7:40, 10:40
- **2012** (PG-13) 3:00, 6:40, 10:10
- **C'mas Carol 3D** (PG) 2:00, 4:20, 6:45, 9:10
- **Precious: Novel** (R) 1:50, 4:40, 7:20, 9:55

OAK PARK

LAKE CINEMAS (CLASSIC)

1022 Lake Street
630-444-FILM #560

- **Princess-Frog** (G) 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00
- **Everybody** (PG-13) ★ 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20
- **Fantastic Fox** (PG) 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:25
- **Twilight: Moon** (PG-13) 1:30, 4:20, 7:15, 10:00
- **The Blind Side** (PG-13) 1:00, 4:05, 7:00, 9:40
- **2012** (PG-13) 12:00, 3:15, 6:30, 9:45
- **C'mas Carol 3D** (PG) 12:10, 2:25, 4:40, 6:55, 9:10

EVANSTON

CENTURY 12/CINEARTS 6 (CENTURY)

1715 MAPLE AVE.

(847) 492-0123 &

- **Christmas Carol** (PG) ★ 3:50, 9:50
- **Invictus** (PG-13) ★ 11:40, 12:50, 2:40, 4:05, 5:40, 7:10, 8:40, 10:10
- **RiffTrax** (NR) ★ 7:00 P.M.
- **The Blind Side** (PG-13) ★ ♦ 2:35, 8:35
- **Princess-Frog** (G) ★ 11:50, 2:10, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40
- **Up in the Air** (R) ★ 11:35, 1:20, 2:15, 4:00, 4:55, 6:40, 7:35, 9:20, 10:15
- **Up in the Air** (R) ★ 12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30
- **C'mas Carol 3D** (PG) 11:55, 5:35
- **Armored** (PG-13) ★ 12:10, 2:30, 5:10, 7:30, 9:45
- **Brothers** (R) ★ 11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:25, 10:10
- **Everybody** (PG-13) ★ 11:30, 2:05, 4:30, 7:20, 9:55
- **Ninja Assassin** (R) 12:25, 5:25, 10:30
- **Old Dogs** (PG) 3:05, 7:45
- **Planet 51** (PG) 12:40, 5:25, 10:05
- **Precious: Novel** (R) 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20
- **The Blind Side** (PG-13) 1:00, 3:55, 7:00, 10:00
- **Fantastic Fox** (PG) 12:05, 2:25, 4:45, 7:05, 9:25
- **The Road** (R) 11:45, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:25
- **Twilight: Moon** (PG-13) 11:35, 12:45, 2:45, 5:45, 6:50, 8:50

Where to go for entertainment? Start here.



What to Watch

www.zap2it.com

TRINITY

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EVERYDAY

EVERY WEDNESDAY

1/2 OFF ALL DRINKS

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\$10 person

SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS 11-3pm

DECEMBER

DRINK OF THE MONTH

\$3 CANDY CANE SHOTS

THURSDAYS

\$2 ALL BOTTLES, \$2 DOMESTIC DRAFTS,

\$5 MARTINIS, \$3 STOLI O DRINKS

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Halsted Harp
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Bartender: Colleen

Q: Favorite college football team?
A: Go Irish

Q: Favorite Holiday?
A: It is a toss up between Boxing Day
and Secretary Day

Q: Favorite Beer?
A: ummm...Miller Lite

Q: How long have you been bartending?
A: 10 Years



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RANDOM ACTS OF GREATNESS 5 things we're loving this week

- 1 Traditional hot chocolate** at Earwax (1561 N. Milwaukee Ave.). This full pint glass of steamy stuff topped with whipped cream (\$3) will help you kick some cold-weather butt.
- 2 The Hud** (\$7), made with Elmer T. Lee single barrel whiskey, tangerine and Angostura bitters, at Big Star (1531 N. Damen Ave.).
- 3 The tasty complimentary bar snacks at Bernard's Bar** (inside the Elysian Hotel, 11 E. Walton St., 2nd floor). We'd totally go back to gobble the popcorn, salted almonds and marinated olives plopped in front of us at the bar.
- 4 The \$10 burger-and-beer deal**, available after 8 p.m. daily through Dec. 23, at Hackney's (733 S. Dearborn St.). Unlike other burger deals, you can pair any burger and any draft beer on the menu, including the stuffed California burger (\$9.95) and a glass of Goose Island Matilda (\$6.95).



- 5 LM Le Restaurant** (4539 N. Lincoln Ave.). The food is great, sure, and the interior is comfortably modern without those precious flourishes that plague so many spots, but it's the amazing service that keeps us coming back to this new Lincoln Square stalwart.

Join the randomness!

What are you loving this week? Log onto metromix.com to send us your own Random Acts of Greatness. You might just spot your pick in a future issue.

WEDNESDAY DEALS

THE 44TH WARD DINNER PARTY

\$3 Long Islands, \$5 select sandwiches; 3542 N. Halsted St. 773-857-2911.

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ASHLAND

\$2 Mickey's tallboys, \$3 white trash mimosas and Magic Hat products, \$5 40-ounce Mickey's; 2824 N. Ashland Ave. 773-883-7297.

BECKETT'S PUBLIC HOUSE

Half-price bottles of wine; 3210 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-880-9620.

BLACK DUCK TAVERN AND GRILLE

\$3 domestic bottles; 1800 N. Halsted St. 312-664-1801.

BLUE FROG BAR & GRILL

\$2.50 Bud Light bottles, half-price quesadillas (4 p.m.), karaoke 10 p.m.; 676 N. La Salle St. 312-943-8900.

CAGNEY'S

\$4 margaritas, half-price salads and sandwiches; 2142 N. Clybourn Ave. 773-857-1111.

THE CALL

\$3 off specialty martinis and cosmos; 1547 W. Bryn Mawr Ave. 773-334-2525.

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\$2 Miller Lite drafts, \$2 mozzarella logs; 170 W. Ontario St. 312-337-3477.

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\$2.50 chili, \$3 drafts, \$5 bombs; 1942 W. Division St. 773-384-6886.

DIVISION STREET BAR & GRILL

\$4 Jack Daniel's cocktails; 2525 W. Division St. 773-252-2233.

DUKE OF PERTH

\$9.95 all-you-can-eat fish and chips; 2913 N. Clark St. 773-477-1741.

DURKIN'S

\$4 Jager bombs, \$10 Bud buckets; 810 W. Diversey Pkwy. 773-525-2515.

ENGLISH

Half-price bottles of wine, \$5 signature martinis and cocktails; 444 N. La Salle St. 312-222-6200.

FIVE STAR BAR

25 cent jumbo wings, \$2.50 Tecate cans; 1424 W. Chicago Ave. 312-850-2555.

FULTON LOUNGE

Market Days. \$6 select cocktails, \$7 fish and chips; 955 W. Fulton Market. 312-942-9500.

GLASCOTT'S

\$3.50 Guinness, Harp, Bass and Smithwick's pints; 2158 N. Halsted St. 773-281-1205.

HALSTED HARP

\$3 Blue Moon drafts; 2138 N. Halsted St. 773-348-3665.

HALSTED'S

\$2.50 domestic drafts, \$5.95 turkey burgers; 3441 N. Halsted St. 773-348-9696.

HARRY CARAY'S TAVERN

\$2 Bud bottles, \$3.50 Goose Island drafts, \$9.95 16-ounce T-bone steak with onion rings; 3551 N. Sheffield Ave. 773-327-7800.

HOLIDAY CLUB

\$1 off Jameson cocktails, \$3.50 Coors Light bottles, \$5 meatloaf dinner (6-10 p.m.); 4000 N. Sheridan Rd. 773-348-9600.

IN FINE SPIRITS LOUNGE

\$5 flatbreads; 5420 N. Clark St. 773-334-9463.

KIT KAT LOUNGE

Half-price cocktails and martinis, buy one entree get one free; 3700 N. Halsted St. 773-525-1111.

LASALLE POWER CO.

\$3 well drinks and drafts; 500 N. La Salle St. 312-661-1122.

LOTTIES PUB

\$2.50 beer cans, \$3 chicken sandwiches; 1925 W. Cortland Ave. 773-489-0738.

»» page 28




MARIAH CAREY

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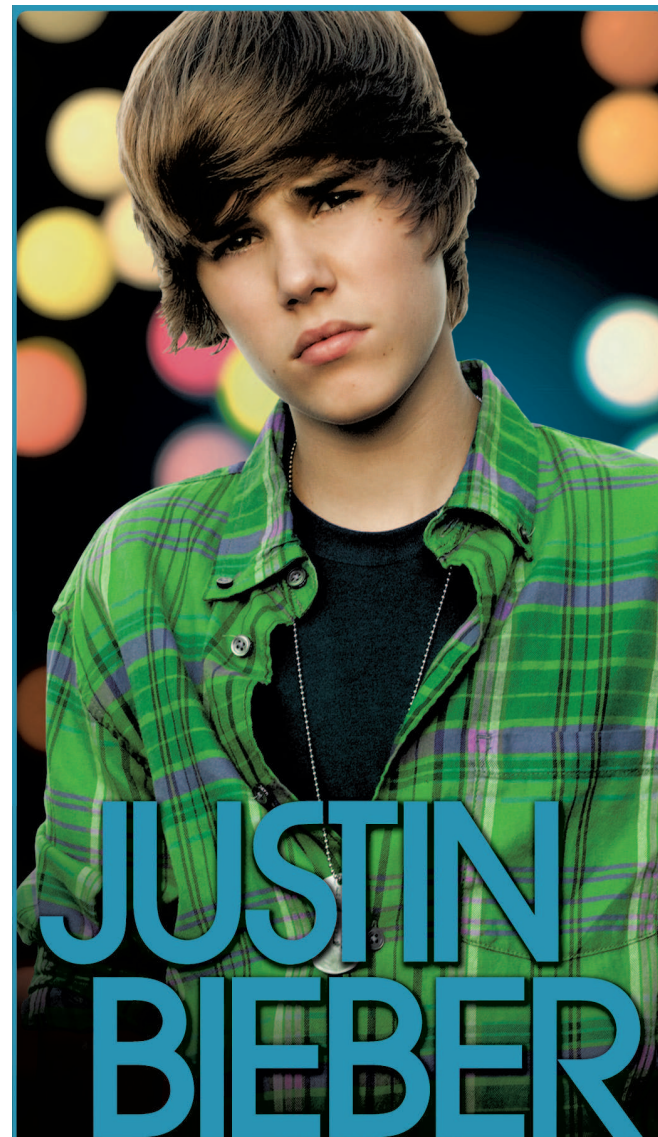
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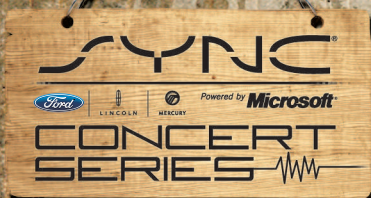


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tour 2010

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WITH SPECIAL GUESTS: MAYDAY PARADE, A ROCKET TO THE MOON, THERE FOR TOMORROW, STEREO SKYLINE!

JANUARY 28

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FEBRUARY 15

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Jack's Mannequin

with special guests

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BACK PORCH STAGE

ROSS BONN & THE MIGHTY BLUE KINGS

THIS FRIDAY! DEC. 18

NEW YEARS EVE! URGE OVERKILL

DECEMBER 31

- 12-26** **V103 and enFULLAffect Marketing Holiday Party**
Julian "Jumpin" Perez, Terry Hunter, Mark Fuller, Mike Dunn - 21+
- 12-27** **Rusted Root**
Tom Fuller Band - 17+ 93.3 XRT
- 12-28**
- 12-31** **Big Head Todd & The Monsters**
NEW YEAR'S EVE! - 21+ 93.3 XRT
- 1-1** **Chris Isaak**
21+ 93.3 XRT
- 1-2** **THE NATION'S #1 DAVE MATTHEWS TRIBUTE BAND Trippin Billies**
Lucky Jackson, Gooley - 17+
- 1-8** **Led Zeppelin 2**
17+
- 1-9**
- 1-10** **Anvil**
All Ages
- 1-19** **Theory of A Deadman**
Halestorm, Taking Dawn, Adelitas Way
All Ages
- 1-20** **BOUND BY THE ROAD TOUR FEAT. DevilDriver**
Suffocation, Goatwhore, Thy Will Be Done - All Ages Q101
- 1-21** **The Expendables**
Iration, Passafire, Pour Habit, Roots Down Below - 17+
- 1-22** **Super Diamond**
17+
- 1-23**
- 1-24** **Between The Buried And Me**
Cynic, Devin Townsend, Scale The Summit - All Ages
- 1-25** **Syesha Mercado**
All Ages
- 1-26** **Behemoth**
Septicflesh, Shining
All Ages
- 1-29** **Arch Enemy**
Exodus, Arsis, Mutiny Within
All Ages
- 1-30** **Howie Day**
Serena Ryder
All Ages
- 2-2** **Utada**
DJ Mike Rizzo - 17+
- 2-4** **Rebellion**
Soja, Zion-I - 17+
- 2-5** **PLATFORM ONE ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS Gov't Mule**
Jackie Greene - 21+

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\$80 Includes Hors D'oeuvres Buffet

Premium Open Bar from 8pm-close!

Champagne Toast at Midnight



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To Purchase Tickets Call 773 832 4000

Group Discount Rates Also Available

NIGHTCRAWLERS *Photos of who we've seen on the scene*



Holiday cheer & beer

An estimated 7,000 merrymakers flooded Wrigleyville on Saturday for the 14th annual **12 Bars of Christmas Pub Crawl**. As in past years, the showing of festive apparel (and the consumption of sugary breakfast cereal, a longtime tradition) was impressive. Our favorite costumes of the day? Cereal mascots Franken Berry, Tony the Tiger and Count Chocula (above) and "The Nightmare before Christmas" couple (left).



BARRY BRECHEISEN PHOTOS
FOR METROMIX



« page 25

LUCKY'S SANDWICH COMPANY

\$3 Guinness and Smithwick's drafts; 3472 N. Clark St. 773-549-0665.

THE MAP ROOM

\$1 off non-Belgian drafts; 1949 N. Hoyne Ave. 773-252-7636.

THE MOTEL BAR

\$4 Amstel Light and Heineken bottles, \$6 half-pound burgers with fries; 600 W. Chicago Ave. 312-822-2900.

NICK'S ON WILSON

\$1 off well vodka cocktails, \$2 infusion shots; 1140 W. Wilson Ave. 773-271-1155.

PADDY LONG'S

\$4 Captain Morgan cocktails, \$4.50 Stella drafts, \$5 for a dozen wings; 1028 W. Diversey Pkwy. 773-290-6988.

PHYLLIS' MUSICAL INN

\$3.50 Moosehead pints, \$4.25 bottle of the month; 1800 W. Division St. 773-486-9862.

PIECE

\$4 well drinks; 1927 W. North Ave. 773-772-4422.

THE PONY

Honky Tonk Wednesdays. Half-price burgers and wings, \$3 SoCo Lime shots and 16-ounce Coors Light cans; 1638 W. Belmont Ave. 773-828-5055.

REBEL

\$2 burgers and fries, \$12 domestic buckets; 3462 N. Clark St. 773-975-2010.

ROCKS LINCOLN PARK

\$5 select whiskeys and select 22-ounce beer bottles, \$5 burgers; 1301 W. Schubert Ave. 773-472-7738.

SHEFFIELD'S

\$1 off all Chicago beers, half-price bottles and glasses of wine, \$15.95 brisket platters; 3258 N. Sheffield Ave. 773-281-4989.

SIMONE'S BAR

Free basket of fries with purchase of large format beer; 960 W. 18th St. 312-666-8601.

THE SPREAD

Half-price appetizers (until 8 p.m.), \$15 domestic buckets, trivia 8 p.m.; 2476 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-857-5074.

SUBTERRANEAN

\$3 beer of the month, \$4 vodka cranberry cocktails; 2011 W. North Ave. 773-278-6600.

THEORY

\$2 sliders, \$5 El Mayor tequila shots, \$6 Pearl Vodka cocktails and martinis; 9 W. Hubbard St. 312-644-0004.

TOWN HALL PUB

\$5 Long Islands, \$7 jalapeno bloody marys, \$7 PBR pitchers; 3340 N. Halsted Ave. 773-472-4405.

TUMBABO BAR & GRILL

Half-price appetizers; 3213 W. Armitage Ave. 773-772-9800.

UNION PARK

\$2 domestic drafts, \$4 Cuervo Silver shots; 228 S. Racine Ave. 312-243-9002.

VICTORY LIQUORS

\$1 Miller Lite bottles, half-price burgers, karaoke 9 p.m.; 2610 N. Halsted St. 773-348-5600.

WEATHER MARK TAVERN

\$2 domestic bottles, \$6 select sandwiches and salads; 1503 S. Michigan Ave. 312-588-0230.

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Great Holiday
Stocking Stuffers

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FRIDAY AT NOON!

FRIDAY
JANUARY 29



BONEY JAMES

GREAT SEATS
STILL AVAILABLE!

THIS FRIDAY!
DECEMBER 18

JOHN LEGEND
IN CONCERT



TICKETS ON
SALE NOW!

WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 30

REAL MMA

HFC 2

HOOSIER FIGHT CLUB

KEITH WISNIEWSKI
vs. PETE SPRATT

TICKETS ON
SALE NOW!

SATURDAY
JANUARY 2



**THE Ultimate
ELVIS**
TRIBUTE ARTIST TOUR

TICKETS ON
SALE NOW!

FRIDAY
JANUARY 8



STEVE HARVEY

TICKETS ON
SALE NOW!

SATURDAY
JANUARY 16



CARLOS MENCIA
THE ADMINISTRATION OF LAUGHTER

TICKETS ON
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FRIDAY
JANUARY 22



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FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 12

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

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**THE MUSIC OF
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music

AM Taxi with Rise Against, Street Sweeper Social Club

When: 7:30 p.m. Thursday

Where: House of Blues, 329 N. Dearborn St.

Tickets: Sold out

FAST
FWD ▶

TOP 5 PICKS FOR
THIS WEEK'S SHOWS



Andrew Bird

8 p.m. Thu. at Fourth Presbyterian Church

1 The local multi-instrumentalist closes his four-night stint.

Musikanto

9 p.m. Fri. at Beat Kitchen

2 Pleasant local folk-pop.



Mannequin Men

9:30 p.m. Fri. at Empty Bottle

3 Locals steamroll through some of the city's best bar music.

Motion City Soundtrack

7 p.m. Fri.-Sun. at Lincoln Hall

4 Rockers play their first three albums in their entirety.

Dr. Manhattan

7 p.m. Fri. at Subterranean

5 Local rock that takes hard turns around sharp angles.



Adam Krier (second from left) of AM Taxi

Better late than never

A major-label debut, returning library books and quitting smoking are on the way for AM Taxi

By Matt Pais

"We were pretty shocked to get a deal to begin with," says AM Taxi singer Adam Krier. "Everything's got this specific style these days, and you don't hear too many straight-ahead rock bands."

That disbelief is why the local, punk-influenced rockers (formerly dubbed American Taxi) named their energetic Virgin Records debut "We Don't Stand a Chance." Indeed, the band, which would fit right in on tour with the Hold Steady and Gaslight Anthem, isn't on easy street yet: The album was set for release in October, then January 2010, then May. Its release is now scheduled for June.

From his home in Naperville, Krier—who claims he's 25 and has been "for a long time"—talked about

the forthcoming album, free booze and what to do if you need a cab on NYE.

How does it feel to have the record done but another six months before it's out?

It's kinda "hurry up and wait" on our end. But we did our part. We just gotta wait and let [the label] do their part. In the meantime we'll just keep writing and doing shows and carrying on.

Your motto in the studio was, "If it ain't broke, break it." Do you apply that philosophy when shopping at Crate and Barrel?

[Laughs] Not really. We mostly just keep that to the

songwriting. It used to be our philosophy when we were younger, while staying at hotels. But we don't really do that anymore.

What's the wildest thing you ever broke?

I don't know, man. There were definitely firecrackers set off in bathrooms, and we found ways to make waterslides out of furniture and surfboards out of ironing boards. But we don't really do that kind of stuff anymore.

Now that you have a record deal, you have to do it more. That's the lifestyle.

[Laughs] Yeah, I guess. Nowadays we just drink a bunch and pass out.

NEW RELEASES


Sissy Mena
 "Young Girl"
 (Self-released)

Not until "Udellia," which buzzes and trembles for a minute and a half before the

lyrics kick in, does Chicago shoegaze trio Sissy Mena feel like it's staring at its feet. Then it swims through hazy guitar echoes and becomes an epic rocker for anyone looking to wallow in something confusing or painful for a little while, and then let it go. This debut disc isn't always overflowing with ideas; the title track overstays its welcome, and even by track four, "Pay For Some Sins," the band is already repeating itself. The poppy "Certain Smiles" is straightforward with fuzz on its fringes, while the breezy "Main Drain" seems to ask you to skip along, then wander off into the closest, foggiest forest. The Chicago-based band collects only out-of-towners: Iowa native singer-guitarist Tyler Brinegar, drummer Adam Bonich of Detroit and bassist/pianist Taylor Briggs of Rochester, New York. The band's album-cover photo should make you want to lay down and digest this, dreaming of clouds transforming into distortion pedals until you just want to stand up and bang your head a little. After all, that's often more fun than using what's inside it. **MP**

In concert: 8 p.m. Wed. at Double Door (Free!)


What's something someone can do at one of your shows to get your attention?

Just free drinks. We generally are really happy with that. We're not picky. We don't ask for much.

What can people expect from the House of Blues show?

We pack a lot of energy. We're going to take our 40 minutes and try to best represent ourselves. It's a bit of an eclectic set, but it's rock 'n' roll at the end of the day. Not too many bells and whistles and dance loops or anything like that. It's just drums and guitars.

People probably see your press photo and think you're going to go start some trouble.

Could be. I was pretty good in Austin [during recording]. We were still drinking but not a whole lot. Well, every day but not like a lot every day. Well, some days a lot. And some days a whole lot. But most of the time we were well behaved.

Your song "Champagne Toast" is about New Year's resolutions gone bad. What are your resolutions this year?

Well, let's see. I think it's gonna be to think about quitting smoking in 2012. To entertain the thought of quitting smoking in two years.

You don't want to take action on that sooner?

See, it's a big step forward to plan on thinking about it. Possibly. In two years.

What are your New Year's plans?

I'm not sure, man. I'm sure we'll get into some trouble somewhere.

Like, say, keeping library books past their due date?

[Laughs] They don't let me in the library too much anymore. I'm not really good at bringing things back.

You're banned?

I haven't been yet. But they're not too happy with me. I'm sort of forgetful at times, and I'll get something, read it and then it ends up on my bookshelf.

On New Year's, people often can't get a cab home. What's the secret to hailing a taxi on NYE?

I'm not sure. I've never really done that. I think maybe bribes. If you have leftover champagne or any sort of booze. These guys gotta be tired, driving around a bunch of hung-over and still-drunk people. They probably could use some adult beverages.

And what could go wrong, passing liquor to a cabdriver?

I can't imagine too much as long as he's good at doing donuts and things like that.

If on New Year's Eve people called AM Taxi for a ride, what type of ride would they get?

It'd be kind of tight. I don't know how many people you could fit on one skateboard, but we can make it work.

You'd be coming on a skateboard?

Yeah I'd have to. 'Cause I don't have a car.

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8 p.m. \$30-\$35. Schubas,
3159 N. Southport Ave.
773-525-2508.

**AMY AND FREDDY
CABARET SHOW**
9 p.m. \$12. Pops
for Champagne,
601 N. State St. 312-
266-7677.

ANDREW BIRD
8 p.m. \$35-\$40. Fourth
Presbyterian Church,
126 E. Chestnut St. 312-
787-4570.

**BIG RAY AND
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9:30 p.m. \$5. B.L.U.E.S.,
2519 N. Halsted St. 773-
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**CHICAGO
SINFONIETTA**
7:30 p.m. \$25. Harris
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Drive. 312-427-5620.

**CHICAGO SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA AND
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Symphony Center,
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312-294-3000.

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Cultural Center, 78 E.
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THE BLUEBIRDS**
9:30 p.m. \$10. Buddy
Guy's Legends, 754 S.
Wabash Ave. 312-427-
0333.

**DAVID DANIELL,
JEREMY LEMOS,
DOUGLAS MCCOMBS,
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9:30 p.m. \$5-\$7. Empty
Bottle, 1035 N. Western
Ave. 773-276-3600.

**FASCIST BEAUTIES,
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SHARK MATTER, GUH**
8 p.m. \$7. Ronny's,
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9:30 p.m. \$10. Hideout,
1354 W. Wabansia Ave.
773-227-4433.

**FUTURE GHOSTS,
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SISSY MENA,
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8 p.m. Free. Double
Door, 1572 N. Milwaukee
Ave. 773-489-3160.

**GRODY HUNT,
LOADED, BRAD COLE**
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N. Lincoln Ave. 773-404-
9869.

**INFORMATION,
LOSING SEPTEMBER,
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STANDBY RADIO**
8:30 p.m. \$8. Elbo Room,
2871 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-
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OTHERS**
7 p.m. \$10. Abbey Pub,
3420 W. Grace St. 773-
478-4408.

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**JUST DESSERTS,
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9 p.m. \$5. Lincoln Hall,
2424 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-
525-2508.

**KELLIE PICKLER,
CHRIS JANSON**
8 p.m. Private event.
Learn how to win tickets
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940 W. Weed St. 312-337-
3486.

METRIC
9 p.m. \$10. Cubby Bear,
1059 W. Addison St. 773-
327-1662.

**SAINTHOOD REPS,
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housecallent.com

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W. Grace St. 773-478-
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8:30 p.m. \$8.
Subterranean, 2011
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TICKETBOOTH *Your on-sale concert guide*

ON SALE 10 A.M. WEDNESDAY

Button Pushers, Peace of Mind Orchestra, Sons of the West, Friday, Jan. 22 (\$8, 21+) at Martyrs'.

Dangerous Strangers, Monday, Feb. 1 (\$7, 21+) at Martyrs'.

Workout Music, Milano, Curio, Friday, Jan. 29 (\$8, 21+) at Martyrs'.

ON SALE 9 A.M. FRIDAY

Brienn Penny Orchestra, Sunday, Dec. 27 (\$15, 21+) at FitzGerald's.

ON SALE 10 A.M. FRIDAY

Everclear, Wednesday, Jan. 27 (\$23-\$26, 17+) at House of Blues.

Killswitch Engage, The Devil Wears Prada, Monday, Feb. 15 (\$26-\$28, all ages) at House of Blues.

New Found Glory, Saves the Day, Hellogoodbye, Fireworks, Friday, March 5 (\$20.50-\$25, all ages) at House of Blues.

Timbaland, Jay Sean, Sunday, Jan. 24 (\$33-\$36, 17+) at House of Blues.

ON SALE NOON FRIDAY
Band of Heathens, Wednesday, Jan. 27 (\$10, 21+) at Schubas.

Laura Veirs and the Hall of Flames, Old Believers, Cataldo, Saturday, Feb. 27 (\$14, 21+) at Schubas.

The Morning Benders, Monday, April 12 (\$12, 21+) at Schubas.

Neon Indian, The Hood Internet, Truman Peyote, Only



Mariah Carey
AP FILE

Children, Friday, Jan. 15 (\$15, 18+) at Schubas.

Phantogram, Wednesday, Feb. 17 (\$8-\$10, 21+) at Schubas.

Rocky Votolato, Friday, Feb. 26 (\$15, 18+) at Schubas.

ON SALE 10 A.M. SATURDAY
Mariah Carey, Saturday, Feb. 13 (\$69.75-\$150.75, all ages) at Chicago Theatre.

ON SALE 11 A.M. SATURDAY
Jonatha Brooke, Saturday, May 1 (\$24-\$28, all ages) at Space.

Cracker, Tuesday, Feb. 16 (\$20-\$25, all ages) at Space.

Greg Laswell, Wednesday, Feb. 3, 17 (\$12-\$15, all ages) at Space.

Shawn Mullins, Friday, April 9 (\$22-\$28, all ages) at Space.

Allen Toussaint, Friday, Feb. 19 (\$38-\$52, all ages) at Space.

ON SALE NOON SATURDAY
A Kidnap in Color, The Highlife, Draft Week, Footlight Frenzy, Indecent Exposure, Saturday, Jan. 16 (\$11, all ages) at Metro.

The Academy Is ..., Saturday, Feb. 6 (\$25, all ages; buy your ticket from the band at venue box office noon-2 p.m. Dec. 19) at Metro.

Blah Blah Blah, Unearthed, The Rikters, Warren Buckler, Tuesday, Jan. 26 (\$3-\$5, 21+) at Double Door.

Bottle of Justus, Thomas Ian Nicholas, Saturday, Feb. 6 (\$10, 21+) at Double Door.

Cory Chisel and the Wandering Sons, Dawes with Jason Boesel, Tuesday, Feb. 16 (\$10-\$12, 21+) at Double Door.

Earshot, Future Leaders of the World, Sunday, Jan. 10 (\$10, 21+) at Double Door.

Once Divided, Action Blast, Friday, Feb. 12 (\$15, 21+) at Double Door.

Overkill, Vader, God Dethroned, Warbringer, Evile, Woe of Tyrants, Friday, April 9 (\$25, all ages) at Metro.

Polysics, Wednesday, Feb. 10 (\$13-\$15, 21+) at Double Door.

Yeastayer, Thursday, April 29 (\$16-\$19, 18+) at Metro.

ON SALE 5 P.M. SATURDAY
Justin Bieber, Thursday, March 25 (\$29.50-\$39.50, all ages) at Rosemont Theatre.

ON SALE 10 A.M. MONDAY
Muse, Silversun Pickups, Friday, March 12 (\$49.50-\$59.50, all ages) at United Center.



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FIVE
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Curtain call

Ring in 2010 with a real cast of characters at your local theater



By Rebecca Palmore

New Year's Eve is inherently entertaining. There's drama, excitement and, if you're lucky, sloppy smooching at midnight. But if you're tired of elbowing your way through packed bars and dance floors Dec. 31, try one of these alternatives. The difference could be dramatic.

LAKEVIEW

'The Poseidon Adventure'

Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport Ave.

Don retro cruisewear for a campy screening of this 1972 disaster flick with Dick O'Day. The film is timed so that everyone—audience and film characters—raises their glass of bubbly at the stroke of midnight. Theater group Hell in a Handbag Productions ("Rudolph the Red-Hosed Reindeer") provides antics before and during the show. Doors at 11 p.m.

Tickets: \$20-\$25. 773-871-6604

OLD TOWN

'Taming of the Flu'

Second City, 1616 N. Wells St.

See the newest mainstage show, directed by Mick Napier, or score seats for the locally minded revue, "Studs Terkel's Not Working," at the Second City e.t.c. stage (1608 N. Wells St.). Both shows include a champagne toast with the cast at midnight. Shows at 10 p.m.

Tickets: \$55. 312-337-3992

RAVENSWOOD

'Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind'

The Neo-Futurarium, 5153 N. Ashland Ave.

Revisit the best short works of the year from the group's long-running mashup of 30 plays in 60 minutes (11 p.m.). The night starts with eats from Whole Foods and non-alcoholic drinks. At midnight, bubbly flows along with pizza for a welcome party to 2010. Includes a keepsake champagne flute embossed with the "TML" baby-head logo. Doors at 9:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$40. 773-275-5255

LAKEVIEW

'Bye Bye Liver: The Chicago Drinking Play'

IO, 3541 N. Clark St.

Say hello to the new year and goodbye to one internal organ during the Pub Theater's drinking game-filled sketch-comedy hit. After the show, stick around for a dance party and a champagne toast at midnight. Show at 10 p.m.

Tickets: \$25. 773-880-0199



'Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind'



Dick O'Day

BEVERLY

'New Year's Eve Bash'

Beverly Arts Center of Chicago, 2407 W. 111th St.

Laugh in the New Year with members of the Second City Touring Company, who perform classic scenes, songs and improv (9 p.m.). Before the show, load up on appetizers and cocktails from the open bar. The night ends with a champagne toast, desserts and live music. Doors at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$100. 773-445-3838

UPTOWN

'Jogo de Vida (The Play of Life)'

National Pastime Theater, 4139 N. Broadway

Masks are required for this Brazilian-themed party, featuring jazz from the Fred Barr Quintet with singer Kenyatta Gains and Delta blues from Alabama-based Kent Duchaine and Leadbessie. The Living Canvas entertains at midnight with performance art. Includes a buffet, cocktails and a silent auction. Doors at 8 p.m.

Tickets: \$100; \$175 per couple. 773-327-7077

WRIGLEYVILLE

'It Came Upon a Midnight Queen'

Chemically Imbalanced Theater, 1420 W. Irving Park Rd.

Fill up on a buffet dinner and drinks (beer, wine and cocktails) before a 9 p.m. performance of the theater's hourlong holiday show. After the show (and a few more drinks), test your skills in short-form improv games with the cast. Ring in the New Year with a champagne toast, then dance the night away until 2 a.m. Doors at 8 p.m.

Tickets: \$40. 800-838-3006

REBECCA PALMORE IS THE METROMIX EVENTS PRODUCER.
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'Another Year Without a Witty Title Chicago Christmas Spectacular!'

1 See 16 funny short plays selected from a pool of more than 100 in this annual production by A Reasonable Facsimile Theatre Company. Next show: Friday. Through Jan. 9. \$12-\$15. The Cornservatory, 4210 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-418-4475.

'The Best Christmas Spectacular'

2 The Best Church of God presents a mock holiday service with original music and pageantry. Sunday. Through Dec. 27. \$10 donation. Lakeshore Theater, 3175 N. Broadway. 773-472-3492.

'Feats of Strength'

3 Subtitled "Six New Plays for Surviving the Holidays," this collection of short comedies tackles a reindeer revolution, turkey carving gadgetry and more. Friday and Saturday. \$15. Strawdog Theatre, 3829 N. Broadway. 773-633-6683.

'In the Heights'

4 The Tony Award-winning musical portrays three generations living in the Washington Heights neighborhood of New York City. Next show: Wednesday. Through Jan. 3. \$19.50-\$87.50. Cadillac Palace Theatre, 151 W. Randolph St. 800-775-2000.

'Man of La Mancha'

5 Theo Ubique Theatre Company performs the musical based on "The Adventures of Don Quixote" in a cabaret setting. Next show: Friday. Through Sunday. \$25-\$30. No Exit Cafe, 6970 N. Glenwood Ave. 800-595-4849.

LINCOLN SQUARE

'New Year's Eve Cornstravaganza'

The Cornservatory, 4210 N. Lincoln Ave.

Dig into a homemade buffet dinner made by the cast (we hear there will be plenty of veggie-friendly options), plus cocktails, beer and wine from an open bar. Two comedy sets feature improv games, stand-up and sketch comedy. After the show, hit the dance floor and ring in the New Year with a champagne toast. Doors at 8 p.m.

Tickets: \$45; \$80 per couple. 312-409-6435

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-Hedy Weiss, Chicago Sun-Times

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-Tony Adler, Chicago Reader

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-Bill Zwecker, Chicago Sun-Times

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-Kris Vire, Time Out Chicago

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Golden Globes looks 'Up in the Air'

Streep, Bullock, Damon reap double the fun

Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. The recession-era tale "Up in the Air" led Golden Globe film contenders Tuesday with six nominations, among them best drama and acting honors for George Clooney, Vera Farmiga and Anna Kendrick.

Other drama picks were the space fantasy "Avatar," the Iraq war tale "The Hurt Locker," the World War II saga "Inglourious Basterds" and the Harlem drama "Precious."

The musical "Nine," which is getting lukewarm reviews, ran second with five nominations, including best musical or comedy and acting slots for Daniel Day-Lewis, Penelope Cruz and Marion Cotillard.

Also competing for musical or comedy are the romance "(500) Days of Summer," the bachelor-party bash "The Hangover" and two Meryl Streep films, "It's Complicated" and "Julie & Julia." Streep is competing against herself as best actress in the musical or comedy, as chef Julia Child in "Julie & Julia" and a woman in an affair with her ex-husband in "It's Complicated."

"Up in the Air" generally has been considered a comedy, but its inclusion in the film drama category could give it more weight as a potential favorite for the Academy Awards, where dramatic films tend to dominate. The film also earned best-director and screenplay nominations for Jason Reitman.

The directing category pits "Avatar" filmmaker James Cameron against ex-wife Kathryn Bigelow for "The Hurt Locker." Other directing nominees were Clint Eastwood for the South African rugby drama "Invictus" and Quentin Tarantino for his World War II rewrite "Inglourious Basterds."

George Clooney, his female co-stars and the director of "Up in the Air" received six Golden Globe nominations Tuesday. **PARAMOUNT PICTURES**

Playing a frequent-flyer junkie in "Up in the Air," Clooney had a nomination for best dramatic actor, along with Jeff Bridges as a boozy country singer in "Crazy Heart," Colin Firth as a grieving gay academic in "A Single Man," Morgan Freeman as Nelson Mandela in "Invictus" and Tobey Maguire as a prisoner of war in "Brothers."

With four nominations, Tarantino's "Inglourious Basterds" had a surprisingly strong showing. The film was a hit with audiences and critics, but it was considered a bit of an awards long shot beyond a performance by Christoph Waltz, a supporting-actor nominee as a gleefully savage Nazi.

Along with Streep, Sandra Bullock also had two nominations, as dramatic actress in the football story "The Blind Side" and as a dragon-lady boss in "The Proposal."

Matt Damon picked up two nominations as well, as musical or comedy actor playing a whistleblower spinning wild fabrications in "The Informant!" and as supporting actor playing a South African rugby star in "Invictus."

Other dramatic actress nominees were Emily Blunt as Britain's monarch in her early reign in "The Young Victoria," Helen Mirren as the imperious wife of Leo Tolstoy in "The Last Station," Carey Mulligan as a 1960s British teen in an affair with an older man in "An Education"

and Gabourey Sidibe as an illiterate, abused teen in "Precious."

Julia Roberts was a surprise nominee for musical or comedy actress as a corporate spy in "Duplicity," a box-office underachiever that generally was not on the awards radar. Along with Roberts, Streep and Bullock, Cotillard rounded out the category as the wife of an unfaithful filmmaker in "Nine."

Day-Lewis as the "Nine" filmmaker scored a nomination for musical or comedy actor. Besides Damon, the category also includes Robert Downey Jr. as the London detective in "Sherlock Holmes," Joseph Gordon-Levitt as a lovesick man in "(500) Days of Summer" and

NOMINATION REACTIONS

"We're waxing up our lederhosen already. We hear that's what you wear. Because it's foreign press. Right? So ... you dress as your favorite nationality."

—Chris Miller and Phil Lord, the co-writers and co-directors of "Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs," nominated for best animated film

"Maybe this year CBS or Fox will give me a new car. Didn't they do that with all the 'Will and Grace' people once?"

—Neil Patrick Harris, nominated for supporting actor, series, miniseries or movie for "How I Met Your Mother"



"It's a little early for a glass of champagne, so I'm still working on the coffee."

—Mark Boal, nominated for his screenplay for "The Hurt Locker"

So wrong, and a few right-ons

Movie picks are puzzling

I'm not in love with the best drama picks. It's great to see "The Hurt Locker" in there, and "Precious" is cool too. "Up in the Air" is good enough, I guess. "Inglourious Basterds" will at least get people talking. "Avatar" simply doesn't deserve it. Glad "Invictus" isn't in there, though.

» "A Serious Man" and "Where the Wild Things Are" should have been nominated for best picture.

» Pretty sad group of musical/comedy noms. "Nine" and "(500) Days of Summer" are solid. "It's Complicated," "The Hangover" and "Julie & Julia"? Not so much.

» Sandra Bullock for best actress (musical/comedy) in "The Proposal"? Surely you jest. Awesome to get Marion Cotillard in there for "Nine," however.

» Tobey Maguire scoring a best actor (drama) nod for "Brothers" is pretty shocking. Maguire takes a spot that should have gone to Jeremy Renner for "The Hurt Locker."

» Very happy that Carey Mulligan ("An Education") and Gabourey Sidibe ("Precious") weren't snubbed in the best actress (drama) category. Get Bullock ("The Blind Side") out of there.



MATT PAISS
mpais@tribune.com

TV noms leave great work out

First, the good news:

» Fox's feel-great "Glee" leads all TV nominees with four nods: for best comedy, best actor Matthew Morrison, best actress Lea Michele and best supporting actress Jane Lynch, a Chicago-area native.

» "True Blood" sinks its teeth into a best drama nomination.

» Oft-overlooked "Big Love" gets some big love with three nominations: for best drama, best actor Bill Paxton and best supporting actress Chloe Sevigny.

» John Lithgow slices out a best supporting actor nod for his Trinity Killer on "Dexter."

Now the bad:

» Katey Sagal gave one of the most searing, spectacular performances of the year on "Sons of Anarchy." Snubbing her is a travesty.

» Where are "Friday Night Lights," "Chuck," "Breaking Bad" or anyone from their wonderful ensembles?

» Still so much love for "Entourage"? Really? As Hollywood-centric comedies go, Starz' "Party Down" was so much more fun and fresh.



CURT WAGNER
cwwagner@tribune.com

'Mad Men,' '30 Rock,' newcomers get nods

The Orlando Sentinel

New TV comedy series and veteran actors were amply rewarded Tuesday with Globes nominations.

Nominated for drama series are AMC's "Mad Men," Showtime's "Dexter," Fox's "House" and two from HBO, "Big Love" and "True Blood." It's a race between "Mad Men" and "Dexter," and don't be surprised if "Dexter" has the edge because it just concluded its shocking season.

Up for best comedy series are NBC's "30 Rock" and "The Office," ABC's "Modern Family," Fox's "Glee" and HBO's "Entourage." "Modern Family" has earned the best reviews of any new series, but musical-comedy "Glee" is so odd that it probably will wow voters.

The nominees for dramatic actor are Jon Hamm of "Mad Men," Hugh Laurie of "House," Michael C. Hall of "Dexter," Simon Baker of "The Mentalist" and Bill Paxton of "Big Love." Hall probably has it in the bag.

The choices for dramatic actress are Glenn Close of "Damages," Anna Paquin of "True Blood," January Jones of "Mad Men," Kyra Sedgwick of "The Closer" and Julianna Margulies of "The Good Wife." Because the Globes love new series, Margulies should win.

The selections for comedy actor are Alec Baldwin of "30 Rock," Steve Carell of "The



Jane Lynch gets an ovation from her co-workers on the set of "Glee." AP

Office," David Duchovny of "Californication," Thomas Jane of "Hung" and Matthew Morrison of "Glee." The good vibrations for "Glee" should help Morrison win.

In the running for best comedy actress are Tina Fey of "30 Rock," Lea Michele of "Glee," Courteney Cox of "Cougar Town," Toni Collette of "United States of Tara" and Edie Falco of "Nurse Jackie." Falco, who has received stellar reviews, seems likely to win.

The supporting categories lump comedy, drama and movie performances together. The

supporting actor winner seems a no-brainer: John Lithgow for "Dexter." His fellow nominees are Jeremy Piven of "Entourage," Neil Patrick Harris of "How I Met Your Mother," William Hurt of "Damages" and Michael Emerson of "Lost."

Jane Lynch should get ready to collect the supporting actress prize for "Glee." She has been great all season. Her fellow nominees are Jane Adams of "Hung," Rose Byrne of "Damages," Janet McTeer of "Into the Storm" and Chloe Sevigny of "Big Love."



Michael Stuhlbarg as a 1960s Jewish academic besieged by crises in "A Serious Man."

"Up in the Air" co-stars Farmiga and Kendrick are competing against each other for supporting actress. Also nominated are Cruz for "Nine," Mo'Nique in "Precious" and Julianne Moore in "A Single Man."

Damon and Waltz are joined in the supporting-actor category by Woody Harrelson in "The Messenger," Christopher Plummer in "The Last Station" and Stanley Tucci in "The Lovely Bones."

The 67th annual Globes will be handed out Jan. 17, six days before nomination voting closes for the Oscars.

"Clearly, we made it to win a Golden Globe, so it's all worked out perfectly."

—Director Todd Phillips on "The Hangover" being nominated for best picture, comedy or musical

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JOANNA GUSTAFSON FOR REDEYE



ALBUM 'Sex Therapy'

Robin Thicke

What makes this record so

addictive is the way Robin Thicke bends the latest hip-hop styles to his will. Whether he is surrounded by the spacey stomp of "Elevatas" with Kid Cudi, the Dirty South-fueled "Shakin' It 4 Daddy" with Nicki Minaj or the playful bossa nova of "Meiple" with Jay-Z, Thicke and his smooth vocals remain remarkably on target. GLENN GAMBOA, NEWSDAY



WEB VIDEO 'It's Always Christmas Time'

Al Jourgensen and Mark Thwaite,
youtube.com/bucksanta666

As you might expect, Al Jourgensen's holiday song isn't exactly cheery. "It's Always Christmas Time" actually could be called an anti-Christmas carol, with the Ministry mastermind lamenting "just running around in circles." The music behind the screaming vocals, though, is peppy

and catchy. It's an odd mix, but a pleasant departure from the cliché Christmas tunes we're fed every year. As a bonus, if you watch it on YouTube, Al will flip you off while insisting you "go [bleep] yourself." Merry Christmas to you too, Al. BRIAN MOORE, REDEYE



SONG

'Lonely Day'

Seven; Listen at redeyechicago.com/kylesfiles

Seven smashed the competition in this week's "Kyles Files" track-off, spitting lyrics over the melancholy, guitar-heavy instrumental of "Lonely Day." Fans were fervent in their support for the Chi-town MC, who also produced his triumphant track. Poster "fenetik" summed up overall sentiment praising Seven's "mastery of lyrics and eloquent narrative style." Visit redeyechicago.com/kylesfiles to check out Seven's style, then join Kyra every Monday in the quest to find the next hot musical talent blowing through the Chi. KYRA KYLES, REDEYE



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Costume pieces make statement

Los Angeles Times

Long before the economy slipped into its current swoon, stylish women understood the joys of high-quality costume jewelry.

Coco Chanel made the look of luxury accessible by reproducing the fine jewelry from her personal collection with faux materials. Former first lady Barbara Bush famously donned a Kenneth Jay Lane faux pearl choker at one of her husband's inauguration ceremonies. And on recent red carpets, celebrities have been wearing costume pieces that make a statement just like the real thing—and sometimes even better.

Now some of that quality is coming to the masses. Indeed, with the increase in design and quality of the jewelry found in mall stores such as J. Crew and Ann Taylor, and a steady stream of high-low designer collaborations at stores such as H&M and Target, “faux” is far from the four-letter word it used to be.

“I love costume jewelry,” says celebrity stylist Nicole Chavez, whose client, Rachel Bilson, recently wore a jade-enamel necklace from Chanel's costume jewelry collection. “I find [it] to be a great accessory for the red carpet, because it's less formal and more accessible.”

Chavez, who also dresses Kristen Bell and Scarlett Johansson, favors costume jewelry from Marni and House of Lavande when styling

her starlets for movie premieres and parties.

Designer Melinda Spigel's costume jewelry line applies the same techniques in setting and stone cutting as those used in making fine jewelry. Her series of costume pieces, called Melinda Maria, has been a favorite of celebrities, including Vanessa Hudgens and Julia Roberts.

Spigel started her collection as a fine jewelry line but quickly realized she could design more pieces and be more creative by cutting back on her use of precious materials. The result is a series of earrings, cuffs and large necklaces that blur the line between faux and fine, stumping even some of the most seasoned jewelry connoisseurs.

“Some of my private customers come in and start putting on costume pieces right next to their \$150,000 bracelet,” Spigel says.

This season, it should be easy to brighten a holiday look. Club Monaco and J. Crew have heaps of vintage-inspired baubles that add character to a simple black dress or blouse. Ann Taylor's striking offerings include elastic rhinestone bracelets, which are especially eye-catching when mixed with gold bracelets.

Although these pieces sell for \$60 to \$150, prices can climb much higher. Necklaces from Miriam Haskell sell for closer to \$1,000, but those who own them believe they are the ultimate statement makers.



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My favorite food pairings of 2009

As 2009 comes to a close, I can't help but think about my most memorable food and wine experiences of the past year. It has been a difficult year for many of us. And I am inspired to return to and appreciate the basics and to celebrate what is most important in my life: my family and friends. The fondest memories from this year took place at my own dinner table.

This past summer, my husband and I decided we wanted to improve our cooking skills and make use of the cookbooks collecting dust on our shelves. Every other week or so we focused on a chef and his or her cookbook, planned out a meal and invited our friends to savor the rewards of our culinary efforts. Sometimes the recipes turned out better than expected, and other times, we were tempted to scrap the entire project and call for takeout. Whatever the outcome, our guests enjoyed the theater of watching us prepare dinner and, lubricated with copious amounts of wine, we all had a great time.

I won't lie to you—preparing these meals took a considerable amount of time and effort. But through this process, my husband and I have learned more about each other, and cooking as a team has brought us even closer together. I also have discovered that by improving my cooking skills, I have become more intuitive and knowledgeable when it comes to pairing wine with food.

It was hard to narrow down the best, but here's a list of our most memorable food and wine pairings for 2009. To recreate these pairings, you can certainly substitute your own recipes, or if cooking is not an option, order takeout. **REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR ALPANA SINGH IS DIRECTOR OF WINE AND SPIRITS FOR LETTUCE ENTERTAIN YOU ENTERPRISES AND THE HOST OF "CHECK, PLEASE!" ON WTTW.**

Four to remember

Julia Child's beef bourguignon from "Mastering the Art of French Cooking" and **Saint Cosme Cotes du Rhone, France; \$16**



Julia's recipe elevates the humble beef stew to new heights. This rich, spicy and full-bodied red echoed the smoky bacon and red wine reduction in the sauce.

Thomas Keller's buttermilk fried chicken from the "Ad Hoc At Home" cookbook and **Raventos I Blanc Brut Cava, Spain; \$20**



Fried chicken and sparkling wine is one of my all-time favorite pairings. The bubbles cut through the crunchy coating, providing a nice contrast.

David Chang's ramen from the "Momofuku" cookbook and Susana Balbo Crios torrontes, Argentina; \$12

Who knew ramen could be so delightfully fancy and elegant? The floral notes of the torrontes played like a gentle giant against the richness of the broth.



Pineapple upside down cake from "Betty Crocker's Cookbook" and Jorge Ordonez Seleccion Especial Malaga, Spain; \$16

I usually like to have my dessert wines separate from the sweet treat, but this pairing was pineapple-flavored heaven.



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LYING, CHEATING SNAKES

'CHEATERS' HOST TRIES TO BE RESPONSIBLE WHEN BUSTING THE UNFAITHFUL



Joey Greco
WALLY SKALIJ FOR L.A. TIMES

Los Angeles Times

HOLLYWOOD Catching unfaithful lovers in the act is a dirty job, but someone has to do it so everyone else can watch on national TV.

Since becoming host of "Cheaters" in 2002, Joey Greco has been pushed, punched, stabbed and gets routinely threatened as he interrupts secret rendezvous and even weddings to expose infidelity. As the series celebrates its 10th anniversary this year, Greco, an aspiring actor who has degrees in psychology, education and counseling, discussed the show's underground popularity and his status as the Dark Knight of reality-show hosts.

When people see you coming, they must totally freak out. You're like the Mike Wallace of reality-show hosts.

What usually happens is a camera gets there before I get there. Their initial thought is "What's going on?" unless they know that they're with someone that they

shouldn't be with. Then when they see me ... well, at this point, we've been around long enough so they know why we're there.

So who is this Joey Greco character? The voice, the black leather jacket.

A long time ago I said, "Guys, please, can I wear something else?" But it's the nature of the show. They once said, "OK, we'll let you get a little color in" and they didn't like it. So back to black. You know, I'm not serious, but I have a serious side, and that's what comes out during the show because these are sensitive situations. We have to be responsible because obviously we're very instrumental in someone finding out something that is very difficult to learn. I try to be as delicate as I can, and that comes from my counseling training.

But many people who watch "Cheaters" are watching it for the sensationalistic aspect. How does your serious persona play into that? There seems to be a fine line.

It took me a couple of years before I really felt comfortable in that situation. It's hostile therapy,

it's a hostile intervention. Things get crazy, but I have to be the anchor, the one who says, "Let's try to be responsible." We're not there to be judgmental, but we're saying, "Why couldn't you treat someone you profess great love for with a little bit more respect if you weren't happy?"

In addition to being sensitive, you also have to be in pretty good shape.

I am quite confident that I can extricate myself from any situation in record time if necessary. If I have to get tough, I'm sure I could, but I'm a whole lot tougher with 30 people around me, including the bodyguards.

How has the show affected your career?

It's given me a great platform to do more things as an actor. It's gotten me into more doors than I would have otherwise, doing things with Jay Leno and on "George Lopez."

When you do those other gigs, are you cheating on "Cheaters"?

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30 min.

		5		1				2
	6		8					1 9
3								
			9					7 5
		8	5		4	9		
7	5				3			
								3
4	3				1			8
8				3		6		

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8	3	2	7	4	1	5	6	9
1	9	7	6	2	5	3	8	4
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4	2	8	1	9	7	6	5	3
6	5	1	4	8	3	9	2	7
9	7	3	5	6	2	8	4	1

TUESDAY'S SOLUTIONS

FLIP	WHACK	MOSS
LIDO	HOGAN	OVAL
AVER	ELOPE	NENE
GESTURE	LABORED	
IRE	MEDIC	
APRON	SAT	PLACE
LOAN	FIR	REEFER
ALP	PARCHED	FAR
MAIDEN	HEX	RISE
ORDER	SEW	VEGED
JAVELIN	REWRITE	
EXIT	LABEL	DOIT
ELSE	ETUDE	ETNA
READ	DENSE	RATS

ACROSS

- 1 Collie or chow
- 4 In the know
- 9 Flower stalk
- 13 Impresses greatly
- 15 Compensate
- 16 Sheltered inlet
- 17 Small impression
- 18 Social division in India
- 19 Long-running Broadway play
- 20 Immortal
- 22 Doing nothing
- 23 Stags' mates
- 24 No __, ands or buts
- 26 Alters slightly
- 29 Military unit
- 34 Spoken
- 35 Easily flexed
- 36 Biden
- 37 Weaving device
- 38 Station
- 39 Fork-tailed marine bird
- 40 Electrical resistance unit
- 41 Place of refuge
- 42 Religious splinter groups
- 43 Old Russian mystic
- 45 Grow incisors
- 46 Stop __ dime
- 47 Study for a test at the last hour
- 48 Calico and lynx
- 51 Sculptured artwork
- 56 Owl's comment
- 57 Extraterrestrial
- 58 No longer valid
- 60 Opening bet
- 61 Distinguished
- 62 "The Old __ Mare"
- 63 Roebuck
- 64 Ship beams
- 65 Half and half

DOWN

- 1 June honoree
- 2 Was in the red
- 3 Trait transmitter
- 4 Foot parts
- 5 Welts
- 6 Projecting part of a church

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13			14		15					16			
17					18					19			
	20			21						22			
			23					24	25				
26	27	28					29	30			31	32	33
34					35						36		
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40				41						42			
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			46						47				
48	49	50			51	52	53				54	55	
56					57						58		59
60					61						62		
63					64						65		

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 7 Rodents | 29 Get ready for picking | 44 Decorative placard |
| 8 Vision | 30 Short jacket | 45 Current styles |
| 9 Religious split | 31 Throw out | 47 Fisherman's basket |
| 10 Warty creature | 32 Vane direction | 48 African nation |
| 11 Depraved | 33 Uptight | 49 Highest rating |
| 12 French mother | 35 One of the 12 tribes of Israel | 50 Carry |
| 14 Game site | 38 Collection of facts and figures | 52 Skin lotion ingredient |
| 21 Three __ sloth | 39 Abounding | 53 Location |
| 25 "Phooey!" | 41 Attila, for one | 54 Franc replacer in 2002 |
| 26 Bravery | 42 Sea lion | 55 Custard with a caramel glaze |
| 27 Island greeting | | 59 Harsh soap ingredient |
| 28 Kitchen & den | | |

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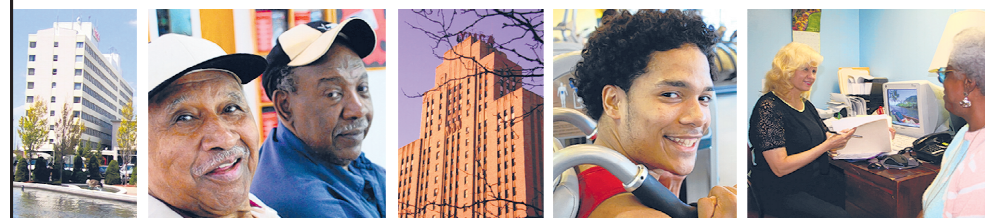
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whoville



Dude, the chicks stole our movie!

There may be a “Hangover” sequel in the works, but Heather Graham wouldn’t mind headlining a bachelorette version of the hit.

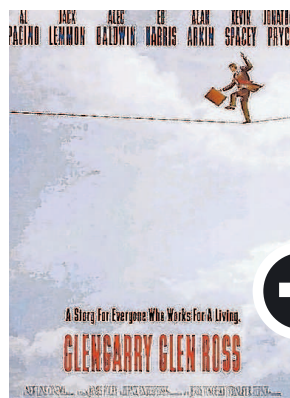
“Oh my gosh, that’d be really cool,” Graham, who played over-sexed Jade in the flick, told **online.com** while recently promoting “The Hangover” DVD in Las Vegas. “Seriously, I wish. We need to get someone to write that script.” This sets off a storm of silly ideas of other lad-dominated movies that could go full-on female.

EMILY ROSENBAUM MAKAS, REDEYE



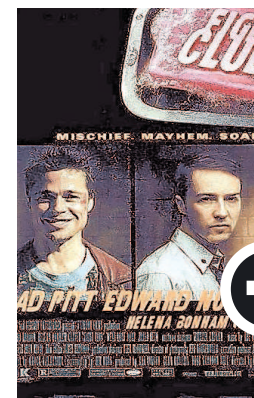
The Harry Potter series

Zoe Saldana, as Henrietta Potter, earns a scolding from the teachers at Hogwarts for using her wand to make boys fall in love with her, and to shed unwanted pounds in seconds.



‘Glengarry Glen Ross’

The macho, profanity-laden David Mamet work is an entirely different experience with an all-female cast. Picture Sarah Jessica Parker, Kim Cattrall and the other “Sex and the City” ladies forgetting all about cutthroat office battles when they learn of a big shoe sale at Barney’s.



‘Fight Club’

Paris Hilton is the bad-ass running the brutal underground jewelry and clothing exchange. “The first rule of the Exchange Club is that you do not talk about the Exchange Club!”

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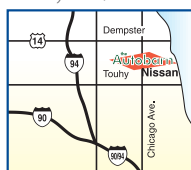
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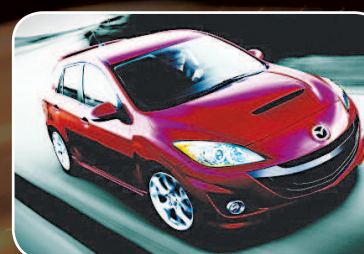
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The weight in pounds of Michael Ventrella, a 30-year-old DJ from Chicago, who will appear on the ninth season of "The Biggest Loser." **People.com** reports that Ventrella is the heaviest contestant to ever appear on the show.

Mamma Mia!

ABBA is being inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Those sweet, singing Swedes who gave us "Dancing Queen" and countless other pop jewels can now be called rock royalty. Joining ABBA in the hall will be Genesis, Jimmy Cliff, The Hollies and The Stooges. The bands will perform March 15 at the Hall's 25th annual induction ceremony, organizers said Tuesday.

ABBA
AP FILE



Colbert on ice

Stephen Colbert gets a wag of our finger for appearing on the cover of this week's Sports Illustrated wearing an Olympic speed-skating uniform. Doesn't he know about the SI cover jinx? But he also gets a tip of the cap for accessorizing the skin-tight outfit with a striped tie and a watch.



Season's greetings

Rihanna is giving us some holiday cheer with a sexy shot on the cover of January's GQ. Rated R, indeed, Ri-Ri.

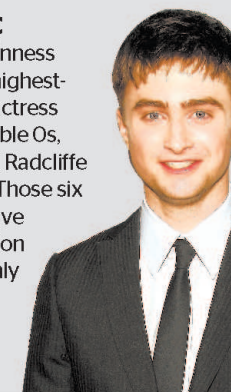


Mucho gay goodness

Out magazine has outed the "100 Greatest, Gayest Albums of All Time," by polling more than 100 actors, comedians, musicians, writers and others. Coming in at No. 1 is David Bowie's "The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders From Mars." Also in the top 10 is Tracy Chapman's eponymous album and, no surprise here, Judy Garland, "Judy at Carnegie Hall."

Money magic

According to the Guinness World Records, the highest-grossing actor and actress of the aughties, double Os, whatever, are Daniel Radcliffe and Emma Watson. Those six Harry Potter films have conjured up \$5.4 billion worldwide, or roughly \$900 million per film.



This list is too cool for you

What were the hippest of the hipsters listening to all year? Check out **pitchfork.com** and its year-end list of hot tracks to increase your street cred with the cool kids. Here are the top 5:



5
Grizzly Bear
"Two Weeks"



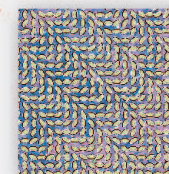
4
Bat For Lashes
"Daniel"



3
Phoenix
"1901"



2
Dirty Projectors
"Stillness Is the Move"



1
Animal Collective
"My Girls"



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